# **HALESOWEN**

Thursday, October 9, 2014

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Traditional food champion is celebrating



History on parade in documentary



# Meeting with bus bosses in route row

DOZENS of residents angry after a bus service was axed will voice their concerns to transport officials at a public meeting next week.

Bus operator National Express and Centro are facing residents to discuss the end of the 297 service.

The service, which ran through Old Hill, Cradley Heath and Quarry Bank to Russells Hall Hospital, was ended earlier in the summer. Officials blame a fall in passenger numbers and in passenger numbers and problems with reliability.

### Unreliable

Residents have already held a meeting over the issue and the meeting with transport bosses will take place next Thursday (Oc-tober 16) between 11.30am and 1pm at Birch Coppice Methodist Church, Coppice Lane, Quarry Bank.

Methodist Church, Coppice Lane, Quarry Bank.
Meeting organiser Councillor Bryan Cotterill said:
"It was a major bus route and this has affected a lot of people. Whether they can reinstall the service I'm not sure but maybe they could meet us halfway somehow."
National Express replaced the 297 with two separate services as it said the length of the route made it unreliable.

But since the service was removed more than 600 names have been gathered on a petition calling for its

# Pay to park village plan

PARKING charges will be introduced in Hagley under plans aimed at boosting the number of spaces available for shoppers in the village.

Hagley Parish Council has announced plans to allow people to park for four hours for free but charge after that period. It follows concern that parking prob-lems put shoppers off.

It comes after a deal to allow to the Hagley Com-munity Centre car park to be used for general parking.

# TRUST BUY S

By Alex Ross

CONSERVATION campaigners are celebrating after raising enough cash to buy an 18th century walled garden at the heart of an an historic park in Halesowen.

Members of Halesowen Abbey Trust have managed to raise £20,000 within 12 weeks to fund the purchase of the Grade I listed garden at The Leasowes park. Cash came from a £10,000 donation by A & J Mucklow Group Plc, plus a £5,000 grant from Dudley Council and £5,000 from the Friends of Leasowes Park.

# Irish firm takes over Co-op site

THE Co-op has sold off one of its former distribution units in Halesowen to Irish food group Dawn Meats.

The 99,000 sq ft Amber Way property was built in the mid 1970s and sites on a four acre site, providing storage from frozen foods.

It was shut down by the Co-op as part of a modernisation and rationalisation pro-gramme at its national distribution net-work in 2012, with the loss of 250 jobs. The work was consolidated into a new 500,000 sq ft regional centre at Castlewood, beside Junction 28 of the M1.

Junction 28 of the M1.

Isla Roebuck, managing director of Dawn UK, said: "This property addition for Dawn Meats represents an excellent value alternative for freezing, distribution, and storage of our products, and brings the security and integrity of our customer products in house. Its central location and motorway access is ideal to service our customers and plants across the UK."

GVA – along with lead agents Colliers In-ternational – acted on behalf of The Co-op-erative Estates in the sale.

Based in Waterford in Ireland, Dawn leats processes cattle and lamb at six sites Meats processe across the UK.

The near two acre site, which dates back to 1790, was purchased from Birmingham Metropolitan College, which left the site almost two years ago.

Trust leader Mick Freer said he now

hoped to restore the garden and have it open to the public by March of next year.

# Delighted

He said: "We're delighted to raise the cash to secure the future of the garden. We now have a busy time ahead of us.

now have a busy time ahead of us.

"First we are going to insure the site and then begin repairs to the former college buildings. CCTV will then be put in there and safety appraisals to the buildings, which we eventually hope to open to the public. Finally, we want to restore the 19th Century glory of the garden, bringing in period greenhouses and restoring the gardener's bothy."

"It is an exciting time and we look forward to opening it to the public," added Mr Freer.

Mr Freer.

The garden was abandoned around two years ago when Stourbridge College moved its horticultural centre for students with learning disabilities to Kidderminster.

The college, which is now part of Birmingham Metropolitan College, had been working with the campaigners to secure the future of the Georgian garden.

the future of the Georgian garden.

The park is of historical significance because of landscaping carried out by poet William Shenstone from 1743 until his death in 1763. It is one of the most influential landscapes of the 18th Century and is considered to be one of the first natural landscape gardens in England, ranking in importance with Blenheim and Stowe. The walled garden was added in the 1770s to feed the family and servants of the next owner, Edward Horne.

# From big truck to the Big O



Former truck driver Barry Steele now tours the country performing Roy Orbison songs A SINGER from Halesowen has become

A SINGER from Halesowen has become one of the leading tribute acts to rock and roll legend Roy Orbison.

Former RAF man Barry Steele first found his talent for emulating 'the Big O' on a family holiday in Cornwall 13 years ago when his wife Lynne and daughter Leonie entered him in a singing competition as a surprise. surprise.

A fellow competitor said that his version

of Robbie Williams hit Angels sounded like it was being sung by the later American hitmaker Roy Orbison.

That comment led to a new career for the former truck driver who now tours the country in the show Roy Orbison and Friends. He will be appearing at the Wulfrun Hall in Wolverhampton on October 31 and at Birmingham's New Alexandra Thestre on November 29. atre on November 29

# **Workers** break-up

THOUSANDS of Sandwell Council workers will break up early for Christmas for the second year in a row under cost-cutting plans.

Offices and non-essential services at the council will be closed from December 22 and re-open on December 29. The scheme was estimated to save around £200,000 last year. £200 000 last year

£200,000 last year.
Workers will have to book two days annual leave in addition to the three days off they are granted by the council over the Christmas period, with offices closing for five days instead of the usual three.
Director Melanie Dudley said the scheme had proven 'successful' last year and the council wanted to repeat it this Christmas.

council wanted to repeat it this Christmas. She added: "This deci-sion was based on the un-derstanding that in the period of time leading up to Christmas, requests for the majority of council services majority of council services decrease significantly com-pared with normal working days, and therefore by clos-ing for an additional two days, the impact on the pub-

tays, the impact of the polic would be minimal.

"The decision was also taken on the understanding that an extended Christmas closure would lead to savings in accommodation costs and would enable the paioritic of complexes to feel majority of employees to feel the benefit of an increased break."

# **Grant gives** club a lift

AIR Dynamix Trampolin-AIR. Dynamix Trampolining Squad in Dudley has received £10,000 from the Big Lottery Fund that it will use to host trampolining sessions for people with disabilities.

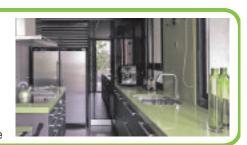
The squad is planning to start sessions in January at its sites at Leasowes High School, Halesowen, and Ellowes High School, Dudley. Head coach Vicki Stanley said "Hopefully now we will be able to attract more people to come and get involved."

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CONTENTS	
Peter Rhodes	4
Feature	6
Letters	7
Memory Lane	12
What's On	21
TV Guide	22 - 24
Brain Gym	25
Property	26
Motoring	30
Sport	39 & 40
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# Wonga write off debts for thousands Customers

MORE than 300,000 people are having crippling pay-day loans written off after loan firm Wonga admitted they should never have lent them

the money.

The beleaguered lender is telling customers who are currently over 30 days in arrears - about a fifth of 1.8 million people who have taken out a loan with them – that they will have the balance of their loan writ-

ten off and will owe Wonga nothing. The move comes after the Financial Conduct Authority requires it to make significant changes to its business immediately.

Approximately 45,000 customers who are up to 29 days in arrears will be asked to repay their debt without interest and charges and will be given an option of paying over an extended period of four months.

Wonga said it did not have a regional breakdown available to say how many of its West Midlands customers will be eligible.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said: "Many of their customers will be the fauth the second the control of the said."

have found the amount they owe in-creasing because of the outrageous interest rates that Wonga and firms like them charge.
"I am very pleased that so many

people will be released from the ex-orbitant level of debt that has been imposed on them.

"I would like to see them driven out of business altogether. I would like to see limits to the cost of credit and to the interest rates they can charge. I would prefer to see hard-pressed families getting low cost credit and reasonable loans from banks and credit unions."

awareness.
Staff at Asda Brierley
Hill are getting behind Asda's Tickled Pink campaign.
They will be holding events
throughout October to raise
vital funds and customers
can support the campaign
by purchasing one of the
pink products available.
Asda launched the Tickled Pink campaign back in
1996 to raise money to help
improve the lives of people
with breast cancer.

It supports the Breast
Cancer Campaign and

Pink for

SUPERMARKET workers

Cancer Campaign and Breast Cancer Care.

Michelle Edwards, Michelle Edwards, community life champion at Asda Brierley Hill, said: "Asda has a long and proud history of supporting breast cancer awareness month through our own Ticked Pink campaign, which has been going over 18 years, and has helped to raise more than £40 million for both these amazing breast cancer charities.

"We hope the people of Brierley Hill can get fully behind our fundraising campaign as we all know someone or a family that has been affected by cancer. We hope we can reach our fundraising target."

# Car struck a lamp post

A CAR left the road and struck a lamp post in High Street, Lye.

The accident involving a silver Renault Clio hap-

pened at around 5.45am on Friday when the vehicle mounted the kerb.

A male driver, in his 20s, suffered minor injuries but did not require hospital treatment after being checked over by paramedics

The road was partially blocked until 7.30pm while fire crews from Stourbridge attended.

Dudley Council's high-ways team arrived to re-move the lamp post.

# **Computer help**

A SERIES of free computer workshops are on offer at libraries in October to help people learn basic computer skills and get online.

The workshops are part of Get Online Week from October 13 to 19 and are run by Dudley Council's library service and learning team.

# Move to make medical appointments online

PATIENTS in Dudley will be able to book hospital appointments electronically as part of a £4.5 million investment in services.

Options include booking online or via mobile phone apps. It is part of a plan to cut down on paperwork, make it easier for patients and improve links with GP practices. Paula Clark, chief executive of Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said the new system would enable people to book their own appointments.

The IT (information technology) investment would asso enable patient records to be made available electronically, so they could be shared more easily between medical staff. There would graph of the province of It is part of a plan to cut down on paperwork, make it eas-

enable tests to be ordered more quickly and make it easier for multiple appointments to be scheduled. Ms Clark said: "The exact detail is yet to be confirmed but there will be opportunities to make the new system more accessible and improve the way we care for patients. It will allow patients to access informatients of the confirmation of the c

patients to access informa-tion about themselves and their appointments. It is surprising how patients can book holidays or order their

shopping online but they cannot easily access health-

"Complex healthcare records are kept in paper form and only one healthcare pro-

fessional can access those re cords at any one time. With the new electronic health record, several healthcare professionals will be able

to access records and input

to access records and input into patient care simulta-neously and in real-time, therefore, patient records will always be up-to-date." She added: "We will also be able to share patient re-cords with GPs and other

cords with GPs and other healthcare professionals across the country and so if, for example, a Dudley patient has an accident on holiday in Cornwall, their health record can be trans-ferred immediately."

GRAFFITI has been sprayed on shops, bus stops and cars across Brierley Hill, sparking a police probe and a council investigation.

and a council investigation.

Fed up traders and residents have reacted with anger to the increase in vandalism in and around Brierley Hill town centre over the past month.

Dudley Council workers have also been busy clearing up after the graffiti, which has been sprayed in white, black and gold ink.

The most common tags sprayed on premises and property have been CNS — which may stand for 'city never sleeps' — and SIMBA.

The Dog and Lamp Post pub, in Dudley Road, has been targeted twice over the past month by the paint daubing vandals.

After it was painted over the first time, more graffiti was sprayed on the same spot just a week later.

Pub manager Liam Dawkins said: "It's driving

"I don't get why people would go round vandalising people's homes and businesses, it's just a pain—everyone is fed up with it."

He added: "The graffiti then costs money from the tax payer to clear up."

# Dancers test new hall floor



Councillor Hilary Bills and dance teacher Fiona Bennett with partner Stuart Law

TEA dancers have been twirling around on the new-look floor at Dudley Town Hall af-ter a £25,000 revamp. As well as repairing the floor, workers have been busy installing new carpets and giving dressing rooms a lick of paint. It was the first time major refurbishment

It was the first time major refurbishment work had been carried out at the venue in more than a decade. The hall closed for five weeks during the summer in what is traditionally a quieter time for bookings and ahead of its busy au-

tumn schedule. A special tea dance was held to mark the completion of the work. Culture boss Councillor Hilary Bills said: "Dudley Town Hall is a premier en-

said: Dudiey I own Hail is a premier entertainment venue for the borough and we invested in the landmark building to bring it up to the standard people expect."

She added: "The town hall has benefitted from a refurbishment and I'm sure the regular tea dancers will especially appreciate work to the floor. We have a great autumn season lined up."

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# pay for emission reductions

A PROJECT to improve air quality and cut down fumes across Dudley borough has been awarded a grant of £158,000.

Dudley Council will be using the cash from the Department for Transport to fund specialist exhaust emission catching equip-

Businesses will be able to sign up for the scheme which will see vehicles fitted with the devices, which trap harmful nitrogen oxide.

### Coaches

Ten coaches operated by Prospect Coaches (West) Limited, based in Lye, will be the first to have the equipment installed.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health, said: "This grant will fund special devices to cut down specifically on nitrogen oxides and in turn improve air

"I hope other local com-"I hope other local com-panies will see this and con-sider the business benefits of demonstrating they care about the impact they make on the environment."

Environmental health officers will monitor the borough for emission levels to gauge the impact of the devices once they have been

# **Albion hero** statue date

A BRONZE statue of Bag-gies legend Tony 'Bomber' Brown will be unveiled in a ceremony at The Haw-thorns on November 6.

After joining the club as a schoolboy, Brown made 720 appearances and scored 279 goals between 1961 and

The statue is the work of sculptor Jonathan Wylder, whose subjects have ranged from Mother Theresa and Yasmin Le Bon to a mer-maid for the Royal Yach Squadron at Cowes.

Mr Brown said he was humbled to be chosen for

# **Fountain to flow**

A £150,000 project to bring Dudley's 19th century foun-tain back to life has been approved. Funding has been approved. I ruling has been secured for the work that will see water flowing from the fountain for the first time in almost 50 yeasr as part of the £6 million revamp of Dudley market.

# Grant will Duke is visiting health and help centres



THE Duke of Gloucester will officially open an £8.5 million health centre during a visit to Stourbridge this week

The queen's cousin Prince Richard was due to unveil a commemorative plaque at Lion Health in Stourbridge yesterday

(Wednesday).

It is one of several stops he will make during a tour of the West Midlands including visits to Halesowen and West Bromwich.

The grade II listed former Foster, Rastrick and Co site, in Lowndes Road, was converted into the medical practice and opened in April. The Georgian foundry is famed for

The Duke was also due to visit the Hope Centre in Halesowen on the same day to present volunteers with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service The centre in Andrew Road was founded

by Wendy and Camilla in January 2010 after the Lighthouse Project was disbanded in 2009. All 27 volunteers at the centre have been awarded the honour.

The Duke was also opening the restored Oak House Barns at the Oak House Museum in West Bromwich.

A £1.4million project has seen two listed Green, near Bobbington.

which in 1829 brought a new era to America as the the first engine to run on rails. visitor centre, reception, toilets, shop and

The restoration work has been funded between Sandwell Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

It is hoped the revamp will help attract an extra 30,000 visitors a year to the Oak Road site.

The Duke, aged 70, is 23rd in line to the throne. His elder brother Prince William of Gloucester died in 1972, aged 30, when the plane he was piloting crashed at Halfpenny

# Grorty Dick celebrates 40 years of faggots and paes

**By Charlie Benton** 

HE earned himself the title of faggot king as he spearheaded a campaign to save the traditional Black Country delicacy. And now he is celebrating 40 bostin' years of promoting and serving

all things Black Country.
Richard James, who is better known by the alias Grorty Dick after the dish of the

same name, opened up the country's first 'Black Country takeaway' in 1974. And for the past four decades he has be-come a well known Black Country character promoting the area

# Offal

Mr James, 62, from Halesowen, said: "Faggots really were the forerunner of hot food takeaways in the Black Country.

"After the war food was still very simple and people were very dependent on cuts of meat such as offal and the like. Mothers would take basins and go and collect fag-gots from sellers and then take them home.

"I remember my nan was a brilliant cook and the number one dish was always fag-gots and paes on a Thursday." In the early 1970s he was a chef at the Park Lane Hilton specialising in French cuisine but even then his heart was in the

cuisine but even then his heart was in the Black Country.

He said: "I came back and opened up Grorty Dicks Food Store in Halesowen and I still have happy memories of my time there. Later on we also opened Grorty Dicks Theatre which was a place where people could come along and have a hearty Black Country dinner and a show. We would have all kinds of popular local performers including Aynuk and Ayli."

When Keith Floyd, celebrity chef and television personality. brought his Floyd on

evision personality, brought his Floyd on Britain & Ireland programme to the Black Country Mr James featured and showed him how to cook his legendary faggots and

paes
In the late 90s, when EU regulations came in and threatened the production of the traditional Black Country faggot, so Mr James led a campaign to save the humble Black Country favourite.

He even published a book in 2002 with



Once he cooked in a fancy London restaurant but the lure of the Black Country was too strong for 'Faggot King' Richard James

then Senior Lecturer in Hospitality and Tourism at the University of Wolverhampton Ghislaine Povey which featured cartoons, recipes and stories about the history of Black Country cuisine.

"It was quite successful. I was Dr Faggot because I knew all the ways to cook them and Ghislaine was Professor Faggot be-cause she knew all the history."

www.pizzagogo-cradleyheath.co.uk

Mr James said that although he had finished running Grorty Dicks and selling faggots by 2004, he still enjoys tucking into them at home.

Mr James also operated tours of the greater Black Country for 30 years which led to real ale tours.

To celebrate his milestone 40 years of dedicated service to the Black Country, Stourbridge-based craft brewers Sadler's have produced an exclusive golden ale in his honour which went on sale this summer.

"The Black Country is where my roots are and it's where I'll stay," added Mr

James.
"I'll be here promoting it until I'm dead."

# **NEWS IN BRIEF**

### War talks held at three libraries

At three libraries
THE First World War will
be explored as part of history talks in Dudley libraries this month.
On October 24 Keith
Clenton will look back at
the war's impact on Birmingham at Stourbridge
Library. Then visitors can
hear what life was like for
an infantryman in a talk by an infantryman in a talk by Steve Rollason at Dudley Library on October 29.

Library on October 29 .
Halesowen Library will also host a talk on the last Wednesday of the month by Dr Brian Dakin on family stories entitled 'Tales from Nana Poll's. All talks start 2.30pm and cost £3 including refreshments.

# Anthem singer's peace message

THE singer of the band behind the Black Country Day anthem, I Vow to Thee Black Country, is to visit the hospice where proceeds from the charity single will be donated.

Gornal musician James Stevens, front man of Dud-ley folk band The Empty Can, will visit Compton Hospice in Wolverhampton

rospice in woivernampton today (Thursday) and will perform for patients. The trio are back with a new single We Gotta Get Outta Here to highlight In-ternational Peace Day.

# Free car wash run by church group

MOTORISTS can have their vehicles washed for free during a community event in Dudley.

Primrose Hill Congrega tional Church, in Chapel Street, Netherton, is host-ing the event on Saturday between 11am and 1pm.

One of the organisers, Hayley Ball, thanked Halfords stores at Amblecote and Oldbury which have helped by donating equip-

### New shop opens to help hospice

A NEW clearance store which will help raise funds for Compton Hospice, in Wolverhampton, has opened on the High Street in Cradlev Heath.

im Cradley Heath.
Shoppers can buy 10
items for £10. The shop
is open from 9am until
3.55pm Monday to Saturday. For more information
contact Compton Hospice
Trading on 0845 2255 497.

### Magic for charity

THE Fellowship of Christian Magicians UK are tian Magicians UK are planning a fundraising evening of magic in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association at Hagley Free Church on October





Freshly cooked to order.



# THE BEST OF

TOLD you so. If you celebrated October 1 by chucking away your car tax disc before it expires, then hoik it out of the bin and stick it straight back on your windscreen. For it is now revealed that ANPR, the automatic number-plate recognition equipment designed to detect tax-dodgers, manages to misread about 1.2 million number plates

COME to think of it, if the ANPR cameras get so many number plates wrong, how can the technology honestly be described as number-plate "recognition"? That's not recognition; it's barely a nodding acquaintance.

THE excitement of the Scottish referendum persuaded thousands of folk to get themselves on the electoral roll in order to vote. Now comes news that some councils are using this information to chase them for council tax. Typical. You think you're voting for the New Jerusalem and you end up in Dodge City.

SO let's get this right. A new Tory government will ensure that, by the year 2020, everyone in England will be guaranteed a GP appointment with the doctor of their choice, seven days a week. Do we have to book the appointment now?

MOSTAFA Kashe (seriously) is suing Rod Stewart after being hit on the nose by a football kicked into the audience by the rock star at a gig in Las Vegas. Strange case. By now, almost the entire global population knows that, when confronted by a football, you catch it, kick it or head it. Only in America do you nose it.

WHO could hear Home Secretary Theresa May's plan to silence the preachers of hate without being reminded of Mrs Thatcher denying the IRA "the oxygen of publicity"? Back in the 1980s radio and TV were banned from broadcasting the voices of Republican spokesmen such as Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness. So we had news reports (younger readers will probably not believe this) of these characters talking, with their voices removed and their words dubbed in by actors with Northern Irish accords. Bonkers but thue Irish accents. Bonkers but true

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes** every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

# Time running out for theatre campaigners

AN APPEAL has gone out to help raise funds to save Dudley Hippodrome as a deadline looms for submitting a fresh business plan.

Around £750 has been raised by the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group but they need £5,000 to start setting up a charitable trust to access grants in

a bid to rescue the venue from demolition. Time is of the essence for the group which wants to host talks with an organisation **By Andrew Turton** 

"If anyone could get help us that would be great." Meanwhile , Mr Downing says that talks are contin-

says that talks are contin-uing with representatives of veteran comic Ken Dodd who has offered to appear in a concert to help the Hippo-drome campaign.

This comes as the group have until the end of this month to submit new plans to run the venue in a bid to save it from demolition.

Dudley Council claims an assessment has revealed

Dudley Council claims an assessment has revealed around £400,000 would have be spent removing assessor from the Hippodrome in order to make it safe.

Regeneration boss Councillor Judy Foster says a decision on the Hippodrome's future must be taken by the end of the year to avoid further deterioration of the building.

building.
To help, contact Save
Dudley Hippodrome Face-

book page.

keen to run the site.

keen to run the sife.
Entertainment company Events That Rok has expressed an interest in running the venue and submitted its own plans.
The firm was co-founded by businessman Jonathan Kendrick whose father Vic Kendrick owned the Castle Hill theatre in the 1960s when it was revamped as a casino club. casino club. Friends chairman Gordon

Downing aims to broker talks with the company.

Dudley Council will allow the parties inside once to survey the building in a bid

survey the building in a bid to compile a more complete business plan on transforming the venue for use again as an entertainment venue. Mr Downing said: "We want to get together with representatives from Events That Rok. We believe it will happen soon when Mr Kendrick is back in this country. "We need to get towards £5,000 to start the process of becoming a charitable trust.

# Dogs get scent for crime



Phoebe and Scamp with the haul of illicit tobacco

MORE than £38,000 in smuggled tobacco has been discovered in hidden stash-

discovered in hidden stash-es across Sandwell.

Sniffer dogs Phoebe and Scamp uncovered the illicit cigarettes and rolling to-bacco while visiting seven premises across the bor-ough.

As part of the Sefer 6 cam-

As part of the Safer 6 cam-As part of the Safer 6 campaign, trading standards and police officers seized about 69,500 cigarettes and more than 17.4 kilograms of hand rolling tobacco.

Trading standards officers will now carry out interviews to decide what action to take, which could include possible prosecutions.

Councillor Paul Moore, Sandwell Council's member in charge of trading standards, said: "Tobacco detection dogs have become valued members of the

team."

The operation is the second such success that Sandwell's trading standards team has had in just over a month.

At the end of August two other dogs, Buster and Bertie, sniffed out more than £40,000 of illicit tobacco at six premises.

**Hours at** children's centres may be cut

OPENING hours at some children's centres in Sandwell could be slashed to help save £2.45 million.

There are in five centres in West Bromwich, four in the Cradley Heath/Rowley Regis area, four in Smethwick, three in Tipton, two in Oldbury and two in Wednesbury.
Sandwell Council is to

Sandwell Council is to vary the contracts it has with providers at some of its children's centres to allow them 'flexibility' in opening hours.

hours.

This will follow a restructure of the service that will see one children's centre in each of the borough's seven town clusters being designated a 'core' facility where hours will not be affected.

Each of the remaining 13 centres will then be designated as 'satellite' or 'nursery plus' and it is at these facilities where hours could be cut.

However, nursery plus centres will still have a service operating in some form until 6pm each day.

The announcement has been made by the children's services department follow-ing a three-month consultaing a three-month consulta-tion. A report on the move says 376 responses were received from the public. It states: "The local author-ity will work with the chil-dren's centre providers to keep parents informed of the change."

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# creating 25 jobs

reopen this week following a revamp, in a move which will be followed by the crea-

will be followed by the creation of 25 extra jobs.

The 48,000 sq ft store at the Brierley Hill retail park will open tomorrow (Friday).

It follows a five-week re-It follows a five-week re-furbishment. Before the refit the store had 78 staff and during the Christmas season an extra 25 will be recruited, bosses said.

# Charity

It comes four years after the joint store for the two electrical retailers was opened.

For the re-opening, staff

are holding a charity event in aid of West Midlands Air

Ambulance.

A raffle will be held with prizes donated by businesses and manufacturers.

Councillor Zafar Islam, whose ward is Brierley Hill, said: "It's another sign of the economic recovery in the

"More investment in re-tail, more jobs — it shows their is trust in the area, which is good news for job seekers."

seekers."
Mike Gilland, store director, said: "The new Megastore in Merry Hill will bring together the best from both Currys and PC World and offer locals a huge range of the latest tech."

# Revamped tech store Hospitals ready to minimise impact of midwife walkout

PLANS are being drawn up at hospitals in preparation for the midwives strike later this

Hospitals face a four-hour walkout by members of the Royal College of Midwives on October 13. While births are not expected to be affected, there could be

changes to post-natal and ante-natal services. Strike action was backed by 82 per cent of members in

protest at the Government decision not to pay all NHS staff a one per cent pay rise, as recommended by an independent body. Hospital bosses are in discussion with unions to draw up plans to deal with the impact of the walkout. walkout.

# Disruption

Paula Clark, chief executive of the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust which runs Russells Hall, said: "The Dudley Group has been working closely with senior managers and front line staff to minimise discrution for women

disruption for women.

"We do expect some of our midwifery staff to take part in the strike, however, we would like to reassure women that there will be women that there will be no compromise to patient safety and that every ef-fort will be made to ensure minimal disruption to our services. Women who are in labour during the strike period will see no change to their care and will give birth

as usual, whether in hospias usual, whether in hospital on our delivery suite or midwifery-led unit, or at home if they have chosen a home birth.

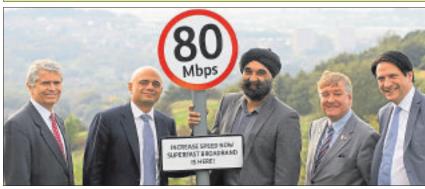
We would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused to rescheduled pa-tients but hope they will understand that we have to focus our resources on women needing immediate

women needing immediate care."
A spokesman for Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust said: "This is a national dispute. We have a very constructive local relationship with trade unions and have worked unions and have worked closely with them to prepare for four hours of industrial action on the morning of Oc-tober 13.

"We want to keep disrup-

tion to patients to a mini-mum and will ensure safety is maintained. We are confident that our contingency plans can achieve that."

# £12m Black Country broadband project



BT's Bill Murphy, Culture Secretary Sajid Javid, Ninder Johal, Councillor Ian Jones and James Morris MP

CULTURE Secretary Sajid Javid has launched The Black Country Broadband Project, to extend the availabil-

band Project, to extend the availability of high-speed fibre broadband to 98 per cent of businesses and homes across Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton in under three years. The investment in high-speed fibre broadband will help businesses become more competitive and grow their businesses. The Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership is the first LEP to contribute funding for

high speed broadband by allocating £2.9 million from its Growing Places Fund to match £2.9m from the Government's Broadband Delivery pro-

gramme.

This funding made the project possible and, following a procurement process, BT were appointed as contractors and will contribute £6.4 m.

Mr Javid said: "Government fully appreciates that access to fast and reliable broadband is no longer a luxury, it is a necessity, which is precisely

why we are funding projects like this one all over the UK. As a result of this £12m investment, 98 per cent of the Black Country will be able to access superfast speeds by 2017, providing a terrific boost to the local economy."

a terrific boost to the local economy."
Ninder Johal, chairman of the Black
Country Broadband Group and an
LEP board member said: "This launch
is an important step in delivering our
ambition of a minimum 98 per cent
high-speed fibre broadband availability by the end of June 2017."

**NEWS IN BRIEF** 

# Chance to show Brum's got talent

ASPIRING stars will have the chance to audition for Britain's Got Talent later this month.

The TV talent show will be holding open auditions in Birmingham on Octo-ber 26, 27 and 28 at the International Convention Centre, Broad Street, from 11am to 6pm each day.

The show is looking for wonderful and weird acts

wonderful and weird acts for next year's series. The open auditions will be held at 11 cities in the UK and Ireland this year with the final auditions in front of the celebrity judges next year.

The show is open to any The show is open to any performer of any age, from any background, and with any talent — all they need is the skill and star quality to impress. Apply for the open auditions at www.itv.com/talent website.

# Council's festive free parking gift

SHOPPERS will be able to park for fee in Dudley in the run up to Christmas after plans to offer the festive boost were approved.

The council will suspend

The council will suspend charges for motorists at its car parks in the borough on December 6, 13 and 20. There are also plans to drop parking charges on one late shopping night in November or December too, which is likely to coincide with Christmas lights-switch on events.

Transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said it was aimed at boosting trade in the borough's towns.



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# **FASCIA & SOFFIT NEWS**

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Rydale Windows security features make our windows super safe. We have a wide range of products on display at our purpose built showrooms and factories situated in Long Lane, Halesown. Our window and conservatory advisors are available in our showrooms weekdays from 9.00am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9.00am to 4.00pm. At Rydale we feel that it is very important to see products on display before you make your final decision to purchase. We invite you to come into our showrooms to view all our products available, the showrooms are here for you the customer. At Rydale we do not take any deposits or stage payments, you only pay when the installation has been completed. Rydale has been at trusted brand in our area for over 29 years. If we give you a guarantee we will always be here to honour it.

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# IN MY VIEW

PRIVATE Fric Hanham was sho by a sniper during the Battle of Neuve Chapelle in France in March, 1915.

the bullet was However. stopped by a small silver tobacco tin in his pocket, and Pte Hanham not only survived the conflict, but went on to serve in the Second World War too.

His tobacco tin, complete with German bullet, goes under the hammer in March and is expected to fetch £1,000. Proof positive that smoking is not always bed for you bad for you.

### 

A PINT a day keeps the doctor away, according to the latest research from the University of

Athens.

According to the latest research, moderate beer consumption can reduce the risk of heart attacks and strokes by 30 per cent. If it is true, it is brilliant news. There are few things more civilised than a pint of Black Country ale with a good meal at the end of the working day.

But I am only just getting used to last year's advice from the Department of Health, which recommended having at least two alcohol-free days each week.

So what is the answer? I suppose one could drink al-

suppose one could drink alcohol-free beer on the two dry days, giving the best of both worlds, although the disadvan-tage is that they often taste more like washing up liquid. An alternative theory is that nobody really knows what is good for us.

For many in the Black Country, Saturday trips to the Arcade Toyshop in Dudley have been a fundamental part of their childhood. Be it Chopper bikes, Meccano or the amazing glass cabinet where the Dinky cars revolved on electric shelves, it is ingrained in the memories of thousands of people.

Now, after almost half a century, the shop is set to close as

Now, after aimost half a century, the shop is set to close as a result of a council regeneration scheme. The facade where the shop is based is being returned to its original 1920s style, and owner Alan Caswell says the alterations to his shop are the 'final

nail in the coffin'.

Mr Caswell, from Pattingham is magnanimous, saying the changes are for the long-term changes are for the long-term good of the town. But really? How can anything which results in the loss of one of the most opopular shops in an ailing town be anything other than a disas-

The same mistakes are being repeated in towns and cities all over. While the shutters descend on an ever-increasing number of shops, local government seems convinced that all the ills of the high street can be solved with smart cast-iron street furniture and block paving. You can have the most beau-

tiful market place and the most elegantly revamped shopping arcade but if there are no shops to draw people in, nobody will ever see them.



The replica anchor on the back of a truck



The lead horses are guided along the route



Film maker David Hale beside the replica anchor

# The day a Titanic task was repeated

ALICE CHARLES on a film looking at the day when the send off for the Titanic anchor was recreated

IT was a snapshot of the glory days of Black Country engineering.

History was recreated when thousands lined the streets to watch as a replica of the anchor from the doomed Titanic was hauled through the town where it was made 99

years earlier.

The re-enactment followed the route the real anchor, cast by Hingley's of Netherton in 1911, took in reverse and was filmed for a five-part history series for Channel 4 and National Geographic

And now the momentous occasion has been preserved for future generations in a DVD from a Dudley production com-pany, The Return of the Titanic Anchor: A Day to Remember.

### Original

The original 16-tonne anchor was cast carried to the old Dudley train station by 20 shire horses, taken by train to Fleetwood and shipped across the Irish Sea. From there, the anchor continued its journey to the Titanic's shipbuilders Harland and Wolff in Belfast.

For the recreation in 2010, the replications of the standard of the Coatle Hill.

For the recreation in 2010, the replica travelled from Castle Hill, Dudley to Halesowen Road, Netherton, as crowds lined the streets. But it wasn't without it's problems as the parade, made up of 20 shire horses, ground to a halt near Dudley Zoo due to difficulties navigating the exit to the car nark

Following a two and a half hour delay the procession began again but stopped again near the Flood Street island as the anchor began to slip from its cart.



Crowds line the street as teams of horses pull the Titanic replica anchor

The shire horses had to be detached and instead walked on in front as the cart was pulled by a tractor to a temporary plinth off Halesowen Road.

The 18ft long replica is now sited

proudly in the town as a reminder of

the past.

The documentary's director and pro ducer David Hale, aged 58, from Netherton, said the recreation captured the imagination of the town.

"More than 10,000 people turned up to watch. I've never seen so many peo-ple in all my life," he said.

"Hingley's was the world's foremost anchor maker. It's phenomenal to think

Just under an hour long, the film also includes archive footage of workers at Hingley's and of the actual anchor itself on the liner.

We have a local actor, Victor Meadows, reading an article from the Dudley Chronicle in 1911," said Mr Hale, who works at Davideo.

The documentary is presented by Luke Perry and includes commentary from Dr Kenneth Mallon, who has writ-

ten two books on the subject.

The documentary began in 2010 as a direct result of the Channel 4 series, which was made by Twenty Twenty Productions in London.

ductions in London.

Mr Hale has been making documentaries since 1987 for a variety of clients including Wolverhampton City Council, and the team worked on the project alongside their other work.

The documentary includes 20 minutes of archive footage, some of which proved difficult to get.

"My colleague Richard Beard, who sally died two years ago, found rare archive."

"My colleague Richard Beard, who sadly died two years ago, found rare archive footage from the 1920s and 1930s in a skip but it was on nitrate," he said. Fortunately, through a contact at the BBC, the team successfully managed to convert the footage to video for inclusion in the decumentary.

in the documentary.

Meanwhile, the production company ay return to the subject matter in the

"I've always wanted to do a drama documentary at some point," Mr Hale

The 2010 reconstruction was a poignant moment due to Netherton's strong links with the Titanic. The ill-fated liner sank on its maiden voyage in April 1912, with the loss of more than 1,500

There were in fact two anchors made, one for the side and another for the centre of the liner.

When it was made, the Titanic's cen-

tre anchor was, at the time and for some time to follow, the world's largest an-chor ever forged by hand. In 2011, Dudley Council and other or-

ganisations put together a whole series of events and exhibitions to mark the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic. Church bells were rung and the procession was followed by a civic cer-

The Return of the Titanic Anchor: Day to Remember is available on DVD at £14.95, and is available from www. davideo.co.uk or call 01384 235 009.

PROHIESS

# **POLITICS**

THE Tory conference was sup-posed to be the chance to unite the party against a common foe before the next General Election.

Unfortunately for David Cam-eron, the Birmingham gathering exposed what everyone knows the Tories are fighting on too

 the lories are fighting on too many fronts.
 Defections to UKIP overshad-owed proceedings every day. Even the Sunday Telegraph, usually sympathetic to the Conservatives, led with the headline

servatives, led with the headline Tory Crisis as delegates started their four-day event.

The defections of Mark Reckless and former London deputy mayor Richard Barnes were embarrassing as was William Cash joining UKIP.

Mr Cash is the son of ardent Eurosceptic Tory MP Sir Bill Cash, who represents Stone.

Sir Bill described his son's actions as a 'monumental mis-

Sir Bill described his son's actions as a 'monumental misjudgement', saying that it is only the Tories that can deliver a referendum on Europe.

It's frustrating for him given how much he's had to endure within his own party as he tried to get the leadership to take the issue seriously – something it is now doing as it promises a referendum if the Tories win a majority.

The problem for Sir Bill and for the Conservatives is that Europe

the Conservatives is that Europe the Conservatives is that Europe is no longer the only thing that is seeing people want to move to the 'kippers'. The younger Mr Cash is miffed at planning policies he says damage tourism and heritage and was unimpressed by David Cameron's decision to drop Owen Paterson as Environment Secretary. There was some relief for the Conservatives as UKIP's group leader on Dudley Council resigned from the party. But Ken Turner and his wife Hazel are not planning a return to the Tory fold.

planning a return to the Tory fold, having left the Conservatives

Michael Fabricant, the out-spoken Lichfield MP looks forward to some form of a recon-ciliation between the Tories and their UKIP 'cousins'

Nigel Farage might think his tanks are parked on Labour's lawn, but with all the Tory defections it is starting to look more than ever like an alternative to the Conservatives rather than to the others. That's only going to strengthen Labour's chances.

ONE of the surprising things about the Tory conference was how remarkably upbeat it was. The opinion polls point to a Labour victory, despite Ed Miliband forgetting to mention the deficit in his own conference speech. There was the embarrassment of minister Brooks Newmark resigning after sending a picture of

signing after sending a picture of his bits to a journalist, posing as

his bits to a journalist, posing as a party aide.
But one MP who certainly had a spring in his step was South Staffordshire's Gavin WilliamsonHe's been named in the top 100 people 'on the right'. Not even the former PM Sir John Major makes the list anymore.





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munity Radio for nearly 12 months.
What started as recording a few pieces of my own work for them has developed into (and I'm not ashamed to say) a show that hopefully in some way has carried on from the one Carl Chinn did on Radio WM.

It's a great tragedy we have lost his contribution to the Brummie and Black Country culture through the Sunday show but hopefully in time the Omma

I ONLY realised when I was interviewing Luke Perry the public art sculptor Being a noviceI am indebted to Steve that I have been hosting the Omma n' Relation who have strongly the station who have strongly the statio me through the shows till we have a wide and varied format of both guests and music from the region.

I was amazed when Steve informed me we have getting on for 50 shows under our belt and have guests lined up till Feb 2015. I am always looking for original music, community groups, historians and people with great stories to come on and talk about their pas-sion. The station has other presenters

such as The Fizzogs, Emma Rollason (Dolly), Steve and Dave themselves, among others who all work voluntarily to build up a network of programmes that represent the Black Country.

The Omma n' Chain is a community

show on a community station and it is open for anyone to get in touch and let me know what they do, or send a CD of original good quality recorded material and we will use it on the show. If people want to contact me email b.dakin@

B DAKIN (AKA Billy Spake Mon) Tividale

# Hospital car park too pricey

THIS week I attended at Russells Hall Hospital; parking ticket in at 2.21pm, out again at 3.30pm, fee £3 for one hour and nine min-

I understand that NHS pays several millions of pounds per year for lease of this hospital which apparently is owned by private

Is all of the parking fee per year counted as part of that payment or is it on top of what will amount to bil-

lions over 30 years.
Until mid to late afternoon those parking places are occupied several times over so the yearly total must he colossal

If the Government is arranging for doctors to be in surgery for seven days per week then it is also as vital now for them to cap the amounts paid by patients and visitors to hospitals it is getting out of hand.

J BROOKES Wollaston

# **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

# **How can cat killers** live with themselves?

I WRITE with disgust and disdain of the person, or per-

How could they possibly even think of carrying out such dreadful crime!? Perhaps he or she would like to know of the heartache

caused to our granddaughter by their actions.

In 2011 she was diagnosed with breast cancer and was bought two kittens who, along with family and friends, were always there for her to focus on. They really helped as she went through her treatment.

Approximately four months ago one of them was poi-

oned and despite of the vet's treatment died.

Now last weekend, the remaining one has been poisoned. Again the vet's treatment could not save him.

Don't think you have obliterated another two dearly loved pets as she is determined to have two more. By the way both cats were poisoned in the same way, so perhaps will be possible to find out who is carrying out such an awful act

How can you possibly live with yourself? L HAZELDINE

Swindon

# Sick of the pie-crust promises

CONFERENCES abound, the pre-election promises are being spouted — more for the NHS, more for everyone, more houses, more employment for the young, tough on law, tough on benefit fraud.

on benefit fraud.

Forgive me but have these promises been promised before! Of course they have, did any of the parties keep these promises? Of course

really is time now to tell the promise makers that enough is enough, their promises are like pie crusts, very easily broken. It makes no difference who wins the next election, whoever wins will have a nice earner, the people in opposition will will have a nice earner but the poor man/woman on the

street will still struggle.

Let's tell these aloof politicians we are sick and tired of see-saw politics. There must be more then Conservatives then Labour, Con-servatives then Labour, etc. P LOWE

Brierley Hill

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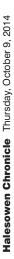
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# Firm fined £13k after man lost tip of finger

A FIRM in Rowley Regis has been fined £13,000 after a worker had the top of his finger sheared off in an unguarded drilling machine.

Gareth Kendall, aged 32, was operating a machine at H&H Alloy Sales Ltd when the

incident happened.

An investigation by the Health & Safety Executive found the machine's guard had been left lying in a box in the workshop when it should have been fitted to the drill, Sandwell Magistrates Court heard last

week.
Mrs Judith Lloyd, prosecuting on behalf of the HSE, said Mr Kendall was halfway of the rise, said Mr Reidail was hallway through drilling a set of 200 parts when he attempted to push a trapped piece of alu-minium towards the drill on December 18

She said: "He was wearing gloves and as

Sne said: He was wearing gloves and as there was no guard in place his hand went straight into the rotating part of the drill." The court was told a health and safety inspector had visited the company in 2009 and noted an unguarded drill in the workshop. "They were told to fit a guard on that occasion but failed to heed the warning," coild Mre Llord.

occasion but raised to need the warning, said Mrs Lloyd.

Mr Kendall, who has worked at the firm for seven years, had the tip of his right index finger amputated. The court heard that he returned to work in March but suffered discomfort and underwent a further operation to remove his finger down to the knuckle. He has since returned to work at

knuckle. He has since returned to work at the firm full time.

Miss Ashleigh Harold, defending, said the firm accepted responsibility and had carried out 'effective remedial action'.."

She said drill guards had been fitted four days after the 2009 inspection and that the firm was not guilty of a persistent breach. H&H Alloy Sales Ltd, of Titford Lane, admitted failing to ensure the safety of its employees. The company was fined £13,000, ordered to pay £1,391.75 costs and a victim surcharge of £120.

Managing director Alan Hilsdon said it

Managing director Alan Hilsdon said it was the first accident at the firm since it opened in 1979.

# Lucky escape for family



A family of three escaped unhurt from this car involved in a collision

A FAMILY had a lucky escape when their car overturned after a crash with a lorry on a busy route be-tween the Black Country and Birmingham

mingnam
A man, woman and a child escaped without injuries from the smash which happened on Mucklow Hill, Halesowen.

Scene

Paramedics and fire crews from Haden Cross Fire Station were called to help the family who were

checked by medical staff at the

scene.

A spokesman for West Midlands
Fire Service said: "We received a
999 call concerning an accident involving a lorry and a car on Mucklow Hill.

"A man, woman and a child were
removed from the car before our
crews arrived and were checked by
paramedics on the scene."

The collision happened at around 8am last Thursday, October 2, bringing traffic to a standstill.

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# **UKIP** group leader quits over campaign fund

on Dudley Council has quit the party in a row over campaign funding.

the party in a row over campaign funding.

Councillor Ken Turner and his wife Hazel, who both represent Hayley Green and Cradley South, will now serve as independents.

It also leaves UKIP in Walsall South looking for a candidate as Mr Turner was chosen to try to take on Labour MP Valerie Vaz at the General Election. They had previously been Conservatives until the end of last year when they left the Tory group and sat as independents before joining UKIP.

The Eurosceptics had nine seats on Dudley Council but are now reduced to seven. It comes amid a series of coups for UKIP as two MPs, a former London deputy mayor and the son of Eurosceptic Tory MP Sir Bill Cash have all joined.

But Mr Turner, 71, hit out at the party claiming its unelected party members were trying to control the activities of councillors. He said he had proposed setting up a fund in May, shortly after the council elections, where councillors would donate seven per cent of their £9,393 basic allowance to a fund for campaigning. But the councillor said the party's Dudley branch had insisted the money go into its general fund instead, something UKIP say the majority agreed with.

"I've now told UKIP what to do," Mr Turner said. "The behaviour of local branch members has been unacceptable. Because I said it should go into a group account they ended up holding a kangaroo court overseen by people who aren't elected by the public. The Dudley branch expects to be able to dictate what elected councillors say and do."

Dudley branch expects to be able to dictate what elected councillors say

and do."

While the spat will be a welcome relief for the Conservatives after a week of defections, Mr Turner said he has



Councillors Hazel and Ken Turner will now stand as independents

'no regrets' about leaving the Tories last year, adding: "I was disillusioned with them. They make promises but they won't be the major party in government." ernment.

Councillor Dean Perks, chairman of UKIP Dudley branch, said: "We've always maintained there should be no disconnect between elected mem-bers and the branch. It is the branch

members who are out knocking doors and delivering leaflets. We wouldn't be where we are without them.

where we are without them.

"The process is democratic. I'm chairman and I'm an elected councillor. It was agreed the voluntary donation of allowances should go to the branch funds. It's not great when someone leaves but I don't think Ken ever took his Tory hat off."







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# Works starts on £10m college



From left, Professor Linda Lang, Dean of University of Wolverhampton's Faculty of Education, Health and Well-

A GROUND-breaking ceremony marked the start of work on the new £10 million University Technical Col-lege in Sandwell which will be home to hundreds of medical students.

The cutting of the first sod took place at the former Sandwell College site in High Street, West Bromwich. The Health Futures UTC will serve 600 pupils and have 60 staff. It is due to be complete in September 2015.

The college will focus on giving young people skills for careers in

healthcare and health science and is sponsored by the University of Wolverhampton, the West Midlands Ambulance Service, the Midcounties Co-operative Pharmacy and several NHS Foundation Trusts in the Black Country and Birmingham

Present at this week's ceremony were deputy mayor of Sandwell, Coun-cillor Shirley Hosell, and principal des-ignate of the new college, Robert Fell.

Mr Fell said: "It is wonderful to mark the formal redevelopment of this

site and the foundation of our state-ofthe-art Health Futures UTC.

The new UTC will be built by BAM Construction. Rob Stiles, Midlands regional director of BAM Construction, said: "Today marks a significant milestone in the development of this new LTC in Sondwall. UTC in Sandwell.

"The specialist teaching areas will provide an ideal environment in which medical students can learn the skills they will need to provide excellent care in their future careers."

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# **EofE win over Vamps** fans at city arena gig



Dudley band E of E in action at the Birmingham NIA on Sunday, warming the crowd up for The Vamps

are all about'.
So says the Black Country boy

So says the Black Country boy band who today hailed Midland crowds as amazing after taking to the road as support act to chart-toppers The Vamps.

The band, with three members born and raised in Dudley, have been touring with The Vamps across the country playing to packed crowds as the tour arrived at Birmingham's NIA on Sunday night.

The band — Dan Bremner, from Swindon, near Dudley, singer Tom Harris, from Dudley, Luke Bradley,

'PLAYING live is what EofE are all about'.

So says the Black Country boy stunned by the reaction from fans.

EofE only formed in their cur-rent form in February but have al-

rent form in February but have already been on tour with supergroup McBusted , which included dates at the LG Arena.

After the show, Dan said: "It's amazing to be back out on such a prestigious tour, the Vamps are one of 'the' bands out there at the moment, and the tour is really good.

"Birmingham was incredible. Our home town gigs are always good but the crowd were singing our songs back to us, right through the set. It's an

ming the crowd up for The Vamps incredible feeling. We spent some time after the show talking to fans, having photos and signings at we are just so lucky to have this interest in us. "Playing live is what EofE are all about. There's no backing tracks, no gimmicks, just us and our instruments, full of energy."

EofE opened the show at the arena with Kiss Me Like You Mean It, followed by Piece Of You, a version of Michael Jackson's Billie Jean before finishing with Lust.

The band will be back in Birmingham as headliners on November 15 at The Institute with their own Unleashed Tour.



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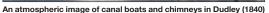
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A view of Wolverhampton from Penn Road showing St Peter's Church



A view of Walsall from the north, showing the hill-top St Matthew's Church in the distance

# From the tranquil fields to industrial heartland

TRAVELLERS from a bygone era would sit back and relax as they were transported from the tranquil fields and mansion houses of Staffordshire into the industrial heartland of the Black Country.

As the Wildfire Locomotive chugged through the countryside, passengers watching from the windows would be treated to the windows would be treated to the sight of deer frolicking on the estates of the gentry and the towering spires of the region's churches and cathedrals – with the smoke of the foundries beckoning them onwards towards the city.

of the foundries beckoning them onwards towards the city. For those train travellers, Osborne's Guide to the Grand Junction Railway was the 19th-century answer to to-day's Lonely Planet guidebook, of-fering detailed maps of the railway, alongside hand drawn illustrations of the hidden gems they could see from their carriages of the route.

# **MEMORY LANE**

First hitting the shelves in the 1830s the book chronicled the journey of Ed-ward Cornelius Osborne through the region on one of the very first steam locomotives. The book is now the inspiration for Wildfire through Staf-fordshire – an updated version of the historic text, which is now delighting a whole new generation of readers.

### Landmarks

The book covers the journey from Birmingham to Liverpool or Manchester along the country's first trunk line, the Grand Junction Railway, which was travelled first by the Wildfire locomotive through the heart of the Black Country and Staffordshire.

The track passed near many landmarks including stately homes, churches, and factories taking in both sweeping views of the countryside and

sweeping views of the countryside and the smoking chimneys of the industrial

features rarely seen antique illustra-tions and rare maps from the period along with 22 commissioned poems by Walsall's Ian Henery who described the book as the Lonely Planet of the

It is written by Paul Leslie Line and Matt Langham, of Mapseeker Pub-lishing. The book pays homage to the contributions of industrialists Mat-thew Boulton and James Watts, who set about making improvements to the steam engine in the 18th century con-tributing much to industrial revolu-

tributing much to industrial revolution that made its stamp on the world.

The book gives a lively commentary of the affairs of the day and descriptions of many towns including Bilston, Dudley, Walsall, Wednesbury and Darlaston providing some the history of the communities and how the people lived.

Copies of Wildfire Through Staf.

Copies of Wildfire Through Staf-fordshire are on sale at Waterstones stores, at Mapseeker studio, and on-line at Amazon priced at £19.99. Details on www.mapseeker.co.uk



Deer in the grounds of Sandwell Hall, seat of the Earl of Dartmouth, now Sandwell Valley

Data CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



# Toy shop boss says he has made decision to sell up

IT has been the go to place for everything from Rubik's Cube to Pokemon for almost 50 years but a landmark toy shop in Dudley is set

landmark toy shop in Dudley is set to close unless a buyer can be found.

The Arcade Toy Shop has been a part of the Fountain Arcade centre since 1967. But owner Alan Caswell, who runs the store with his sister Lynne, has decided to sell up due to the £200,000 revamp of the centre.

It is being restored to its former clark and architects want to being

glory and architects want to bring its white entrance off Stone Street back to how it would have looked in the 1920s. But that means reinstalling a doorway that directly entered the toy shop and Mr Caswell said the work will cause too much upheaval.

Since announcing his decision he has been inundated with messages of support from loyal customers.

Mr Caswell said: "Selling up isn't

an imminent thing but it will proba-bly happen at some point in the early New Year. "I am absolutely for all for the works going on in Dudley and think

works going on in Dudley and think they are fantastic, bring them on. Dudley has been sorely let down in recent years and these works can only be a good thing. But this door is the final nail in the coffin for me."

There has been an outcry of support for the store online on both Twitter and Facebook with MP for Dudley North Ian Austin saying it would be a "tragedy" if one of the Black Country's last traditional toy shops closed.

Mr Caswell said: "People are being so kind and I am so appreciative. We had a lot of people say to us that we should start a petition but the decisions have already been made, and I have already made my decision too."

autumn



Calling it a day - Fountain Arcade toy shop owner Alan Caswell says his mind is made up

# Revamped pub opens after a year

A PUB that was closed for more than a year has been reopened following a takeover and major revamp.

The Red Lion, in Brettell Lane, Amblecote, was taken

over by the Furious Pub Company earlier this year from

Marston's.

The firm has carried out a complete redesign of the pub interior, laid out a decking area and painted the front the pub white and red.

The pub opened last Friday night.

### Buzz

Landlord Philip Guy was approached by the pub company to run the pub following working as a manager at the Robin Hood Inn in Stourbridge.

Mr Guy said: "We are confident the pub will do very

well.

"There has been a buzz about the place before opening and good interest from people wanting to give the place another go.

"My aim is to become CAMRA pub of the year for the "My aim is to become the couple of years."

Stourbridge area in a couple of years

# **Praise for Support** of cancer patients

DUDLEY'S hospital trust has been named the most improved in England for cancer patient experience.

A survey was carried out by NHS England asking people for their views about their experiences while being in treated in hospital.

Support.
"We always strive to offer our patients the best possible experience whilst in our care, and this fantastic achievement is testament to the hard work of our spe-cialist cancer teams over the

being in treated in hospital.

They were asked questions including whether their diagnosis and treatment options were explained clearly to them, whether they felt they supported in their care and whether they felt they were treated with respect.

A league table of the top ten most improved hospital trusts for has now been published by Macmillan Cancer Support. The survey was based on patient experience, not medical care.

The charity says it believes patient experience and it is wonderful to know we is as wital as treatment to quality of life.

In Dudley, cancer treatment is provided at Russells Hall Hospital and also in the community at patients' homes. Among improvements introduced by bosses are Saturday appointments. Chief executive Paula Clark said: "We are delighted by the news that we have been named as the most improved trust in England for cancer patient experience by Macmillan Cancer Support.

"We always strive to offer to patients and can mean they and their families find it easier to cope with such a life changing diagnosis."

David Crosby, regional general manager for Macmillan Capper Support

millan Cancer Support, said: "We congratulate the Dudley Group NHS Foun-dation Trust. We know that the support and care people past year. the support and care people "Our teams have been working hard with Macmil-their actual treatment."

# **Supervision for the** jobless under scheme

AROUND 700 people looking for work in the Black Country are spending 35 hours a week searching for employment as part of a new Government trial.

Job seeker allowance claimants from across the region have been picked to take part in the project which was launched this month. Those who don't co-operate face having their benefits aved launched this month. I nose who don't co-operate race naving their benefits axed.

It sees job hunters having to attend training centres from 9am to 5pm, five days a week, for 13 weeks.

They will then undergo training in interview techniques, job searching and writing better CVs.

They will also be expected to turn up on time every day which Government officials say will get them in the habit of the working life.

of the Working life.

The pilot project is being run by the Department of Work and Pensions across 64 UK job centres, 14 of them in Wolverhampton, Walsall, Dudley and Sandwell.

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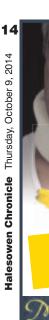
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# Macmillan mile-walk raises £183

Wollaston 'E' TWG

AFTER the summer break, the guild reconvened for the September meeting and chairman Jean Latham commenced proceedings by welcoming 54 members and one visitor, Pat McEwan.

A minute's silence was observed in memory of Mavis Cooper. a member who

served in memory of Mavis Cooper, a member who loved to draw and paint with the tea and talents section.

Chris Picken had attended the July federation meeting, and she reported that there was a proposal to organise a trip to Liverpool if sufficient interest was shown.

shown.

The bowls section representative reported there had been a very closely contested match for the championship

match for the championship shield between Sandra Oliver and Julie Willetts, with Sandra emerging as the eventual victor.

The Macmillan onemile walk resulted in £183 being raised. The 50th anniversary of Wollaston Guild takes place in May 2015, and a celebration is planned as part of the Open Evening. Members with any kind of memorabilia are asked to loan items to Hazel Needham. Needham.

Needham.

Speaker Rosemary
Prosser gave an interesting and amusing talk on her family's life on their farms in Worcestershire, her family's life on their farms in Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Cornwall, especially relating to her experiences when she started a bed and breakfast business.

Competition winners were Janet Hodder and Lesley Wall, with raffle prizes going to Beryl Blackmore and Janet Tomkins.

# **Exploring Scott of** the Antarctic's life

# **Boat trip part** of a busy year

**Brownhills TWG** 

GUILD members are having a busy year and have recently had a boat trip on the canal at Calf Heath with good friends and good weather. A pleasant day was enjoyed by all.

Forthcoming events include lunch at Caulderfields Restaurant, Aldridge, on October 23, organised by the South Staffs Federation Committee.

Federation Committee.
A Black Country Night Out, again organised by the Federation, takes place at Pelsall Community Centre on November 14. November 29 is the date for a Christmas Craft Fair at Aldridge Community

mas Craft Fair at Aldridge Community Centre.
Guild meetings at the Memorial Hall have interesting speakers lined up including on November 10, Jackie Cocker and Jo Lester from Walsall Arboretum Users Group. On December 1, the guild will follow a short meeting with its Christmas celebrations, including a festive buffet when friends will be competing for the best dressed Christmas table.
The January meeting will include a mock auction.
Meetings are at Brownhills Memorial Hall. Lichfield Road, on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the Lichfield Suite. For more information call 01543 360890.

ON August 5, a member of the gardening group gave a First World war-themed afternoon tea which included jam sandwiches. Other members brought mementos of their family who had served in the war.

Later in August another member opened

her garden and held a bring and buy after-noon tea for the charity fund.

The main guild began again in Septem-ber and the chairman welcomed everyone

ber and the chairman welcomed everyone back after the break and then introduced Andrew Lound with his talk on "The end of the Earth, Scott of the Antarctic". Mr Lound is a very dramatic speaker and held the audience captive as the inspirational story of Robert Falcon Scott unfolded. The slides showed on one hand the wonder of the glacial scenery and on the other, the despair and suffering of this courageous group of explorers. The story became more dramatic when Mr Lound put on his costume dressed as Scott.

Social Studies speaker for the evening was Ed Shore on Cycling across America. At the time, Mr Shore was a member of Rotary and as he crossed America, members offered him accommodation. He started in

tary and as he crossed America, members offered him accommodation. He started in San Francisco and aimed to cycle 60 miles a day. He crossed the Sierra Nevada then on to Salt Lake City and endured four days of rain across Colorado. Sometimes he camped and other times he used motels. He journeyed through Nebraska and on to the Missouri river. He journeyed on through Ohio and on to New York. In total he cycled 3,421 miles in 58 days and raised £1,1000 for charity.

A members' only autumn supper takes place on October 22.

# New members welcomed

THE club meets every second Saturday each month in the United Reformed Church Hall, Trinity Road, Dudley.

New members will be made very welcome. It is a small friendly group which enjoys so-cial events throughout the year. The next

**Dudley Widows & Friends Circle** 

meeting is on Saturday, October 11, at the usual time of 2.15pm.

For further details ring 01902 881097

# Are you a member of a local voluntary group?

# Do you have a good news story?

Do you need to promote an event for a charity or a local good cause?

The Sandwell Chronicle needs local news stories for your local paper for you the local reader.

Please call the chronicle team on 01902 319 588

# work with disabled

A Black Country pub has picked up a £5,000 windfall after winning an award for its work in the community.

The Crosswells Inn at Oldbury received the prize after being declared regional winner of the Enterprise Community Heroes awards.

Community Heroes awards.

The pub in Whyley Walk, Langley, will now use the money to improve its disabled facilities.

Enterprise Inns divisional director Wayne McGarry said over the past 12 months the pub had played an integral part in the community.

He praised licensee Paul Archer for his work with the disabled. "As well as sponsoring a number of local groups such as sports teams and the local brass band and theatre, Paul has made an extra effort to support disabled and special needs people through the pub's support for Options for Life," he said.

It also holds a bi-monthly disco and weekly karade

It also holds a bi-monthly disco and weekly karaoke evenings aimed at including special needs customers.

special needs customers.

"Pub staff also go out of
their way to support elderly
customers by providing food
shopping and helping them
out with jobs at home,"
added Mr McGarry.

"The Crosswells Inn pow

The Crosswells Inn now goes forward to the national final on October 22.

# **Basketball** skills on show

THE world's most famous basketball team will be heading to Birmingham next year. The Harlem Globetrotters

The Harlem Globetrotters will visit the Barclaycard Arena — formerly the NIA — ion April 21.
The show will be part of a nine-date tour of the UK when they will face off against the Washington Generals.
The Globetrotters will show their incredible ball handling wizardry and trick shots.

Tickets go on sale tomor-

Tickets go on sale tomor-row (Friday) and tickets cost between £17.58 and £51.33. Visit www.theticketfac-tory.com or call 0844 338 8000.

# **Tale of Tommy**

THE story of the First World War as seen by a Brit-ish soldier will be told at the Black Country Living Muse-um. The next meeting of the Black Country Society will hear The Odyssey of Tommy Atkins by Andrew Lound on October 22, 7.30pm. Tickets

# Pub's £5k to boost Move to ease traffic jams on major route is revived

# TV chef in command at hotel restaurant



New head chef at The Village Hotel, Castlegate, Dudley, is James Sinclair-Jones, of Bilston

A HOTEL in Dudley is celebrating the completion of a £185,000 revamp as well as the arrival of a chef who has starred in a hit TV cookery show.

The Village Hotel at Castlegate has been refurbished

The Village Hotel at Castlegate has been refurbished and there are now plans to introduce live entertainment on Saturday nights. It also has a new menu for its Verve Bar and Grill restaurant and a newly appointed head chef who appeared on TV's Masterchef: The Professionals. James Sinclair-Jones, 42, from Bilston, appeared on the BBC programme last year and reached the competition's semi-final stages.

Mr Sinclair-Jones said throughout his career he has used his cookery talents across the world as part of the Territorial Army's culinary arts team. He said: "I have spent time cooking all over the world as a Reservist, including America, Cyprus and Antarctica."

He was stationed in Cyprus when he received a call from the hotel's manager asking him to become the hotel's new head chef.

nead cner.

Mr Sinclair-Jones said: "The whole restaurant has changed from the wall coverings and lights to the flooring. It is much more bistro style now."

# **Commissioner** £1.3bn cost praises trainees of smoking

NEW recruits at the West Midlands Police

Max recruits at the west Minands Fonce training school have been praised.

More than 4,000 people applied for 450 new roles with the force after a five-year recruitment freeze.

recruitment freeze.

A total of 84 people have made it through the first wave of the rigorous process and have now started their training.

Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson met the new recruits at an induction event.

Jamieson met the new recruits at an induction event.

"I had the opportunity to speak individually with many of them," he said. "What impressed me most was the capability, commitment and dedication they are bringing to this organisation.

"As a group, they also bring a far better representation of the diversity of the population into the Force.

"All of them have had to meet the very highest standards to get through the selection process and when they talked with me, I felt that I was meeting with the senior of-ficers and leaders of the future."

SMOKING costs the West Midlands econo

my £1.3 billion a year and leads to over one million sick days, new figures show. The figures were released as bosses at Public Health England who want smokers to join the Stoptober campaign to encourage them to kick the habit.
Smokers cost Sandwell £83.2million, and Dudley £73m each year.

# **Employers**

More than 250 companies and organisa-tions, including major employers such as Asda, the British Army, and Unilever, are getting behind the annual Stoptober cam-

paign, offering support to over one million employees across the country. Stoptober, the 28-day stop smoking challenge from Public Health England, is running this month and is a major oppor-tunity for employers to help their staff to inity for employers to help their staff to just smoking and encourage them to live ealthier and happier lives. For details go stoptober.smokefree.nhs.uk website.

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### A £1.3 million project to ease By Heather Large congestion at a busy junction

on a main commuter route through the Black Country Local Pinch Point Fund. has been revived. A fresh bid for funding to carry out

A fresh bid for funding to early our work on the Birmingham New Road at its junction with Shaw Road in Coseley is being launched by Wolverhamton City Council with the support of

Dudley Council.

The scheme for the major cross-roads near to The Coseley School has been drawn up to make the route safer for pedestrians and motorists, as well

work as reducing traffic queues.

Wolverhampton and Dudley councils have previously had two applications for grants turned down.

tions for grants turned down.

But a new application is now being drawn up in a bid to attract cash from the Local Growth Fund.

Wolverhampton City Council's Ian Bennett said: "We didn't succeed in

our initial bid for money from the quently, we submitted a separate bid to the Local Sustainable Transport

"Still, we don't give up that easily and we're currently making a bid for Local Growth Fund money."

But the scheme is unlikely to get

under way any time soon and it could be 2016 before the funding is awarded. Both Dudley and Wolverhampton

Both Dudley and Wolverhampton councils have spoken of the need to improve the junction to make it easier for motorists turning.
Dudley's cabinet member for transport Councillor Khursid Ahmed said:
"It's important that we carry out work at this junction including upgrading the traffic lights there."
Councillor Ahmed added: "We

busy section of road and we are aware that our neighbours Wolverhampton City Council are leading on a project to improve traffic flow in the area. "We will be continuing to speak to them about the progress of the scheme in anticipation of improved journeys

for motorists travelling between Wolverhampton and Dudley."

There have been a number of acci-

dents at the site, including one in June 2012 when a woman had to be cut free from a BMW which was in collision with an MG Rover.

The other junction still to be await.

ing an upgrade on the Birmingham New Road is at Sedgley Road West. This junction is due to be revamped

as part of a big scheme for a £120 million business park bordering the two roads in Dudley. Right turns will be banned from Sedgley Road West on to the busy A123 Birmingham New Road towards Wolverhampton as a result.

get the chance to see their idols on the big screen when one of their block-buster shows gets show at

cinemas

The concert, recorded live in Milan's San Siro Stadium in June during the band's Where We Are tour, will be shown at cinemas in Dudley and Walsall as part of a nationwide screening. It features all their biovest hits tures all their biggest hits, including What Makes You Beautiful, Story Of My Life and Little Things. The footage has not previ-ously been aired in British cinemas and is set to set to be released as a DVD in December. Fans will also have the chance to see a 15 minute band interview

15 minute band interview and behind the scenes. The concert will be shown at Showcase cine-mas in Bentley Mill Way, Walsall, and Castlegate Way, Dudley, on Saturday and Sunday.

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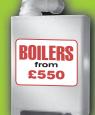
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" Tommy and myself would like to

# Loosen your belt at comfort table

# **REVIEWS BOOKS**

WITH frosty mornings, rainy days and darker nights ahead, you can be forgiven resorting to comfort food to

resorting to comfort food to cheer yourself up.

Here's Jamie Oliver with a little of what you fancy, 100 recipes for dishes best summed up by one word — scrumptious.

Jamie's Comfort Food (hardback, Michael Joseph, £30 but widely available for less), goes full steam ahead for the kind of food guaranteed to put a smile on your face. Chapter headings include Nostalgia, Guilty Pleasures and Sweet Indulgence.

include Nostalgia, Guilty Pleasures and Sweet Indulgence.

This handsomely illustrated and weighty companion to his latest TV series deserves to be a kitchen fixture with such dishes as his version of Beef Wellington and the awesome Insanity Burger. He even finds something new to do with a toasted cheese sandwich, viving it a crisny cheese crown.

giving it a crispy cheese crown.

There also lesser known treats, such Inere also lesser known treats, such as Ghanaian Groundnut Stew and Polish favourite Pierogi (savoury dumplings), and those with a sweet tooth are catered for with Jamaican Ginger Cake, Jamie's Amazing Apple Pie and Cake, Jamies Amazing Apple He and the decorative Hummingbird Cake, among others. There's also plenty of nutritional information at the back of the book but, what the heck?!

Gino D'Acampo recently returned to our screens with his second series travelling around his homeland of ltatus to present his twist on the regional

ly to present his twist on the regional ly to present ins twist on the regional dishes he encountered. Gino's Italian Escape: A Taste of the Sun (hardback, Hodder, 220) features over 100 recipes from northern Italy — Florence, Bologna, Parma and Venice.

This is meat and rice country but



Jamie's dishes to banish the blues

pasta, pizza and fish dishes also feature. The affable Gino keeps it simple and simply delicious with such dishes as Crispy Chicken baked with Lemon and Fennel or the Aubergine, Tomato and Mozzarella Stack.

He also introduces his take on Cichetti the Veretine surjustent to Scientific Conference

chetti, the Venetian equivalent to Spanish Tapas.

ish lapas.

As for desserts, the This Morning cook from Naples surpasses himself with Apples poached in red wine with Amaretti biscuit cream; Lady's Kisses, which are almond biscuits with Nutella chocolate spread; and Polenta cake with oranges and Cointreau.

Vegetarians are well catered for with two excellent new cook books that prove that veggie dishes can be excit-



Sunny Italian flavours with Gino

Guardian Weekend veggie food writ-Guardian Weekerth Veggler lood writer Yotam Ottolenghi could even tempt carnivores with the vibrant dishes in Plenty More (hardback, Ebury Press, E27). The follow up to his hit recipe collection Plenty, sees the columnist firmly move the vegetables from the side dish to the main plate Favourities include to the main plate. Favourites include to the main piate. Favourities include his unctuous fig salad, his poached eggs with aubergine, fried potatoes and spicy tomato, and baked orzo pasta with mozzarella and oregano. Indian cuisine is one of the finest for vegetarian dishes and a fascination would of spice awaits within Cur.

ing world of spice awaits within Cur-ry Easy Vegetarian (hardback, Ebury Press, 226) by queen of curry Madhur Jaffrey. The 200 dishes range from simple lemon rice and potato patties to stuffed sooji crepes and egg curries.

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# Chronicle

# Spooky fun offered at the safari park for Halloween

A SPOOKY month-long festival has started at West Midland Safari Park,

seared at west Middald Salari Fark, near Kidderminster. Spooky Spectacular, which is now in its fifth year, features more than 100 scarecrows and almost 2,500

100 scarecrows and almost 2,500 pumpkins.

There will be an opportunity for visitors to join the see shows including Creatures and Cauldrons, Things that Nibble in the Night, The Disastrous Delivery from Witches Weekly and Do you Dig Snakes? New characters, including Winnie the Witch and Doug the Grave Digger, will also be making their way around the park.

Gemma Southall, event organiser, said: "Spooky Spectacular is a fam-

ily fun event for our guests and it is one that the staff are able to enjoy as well. All day, staff will be dressed in character and when it gets dark we release the spookier ones. "There really is something for everyone and for the first time this year we will be introducing a free

everyone and for the first time this year we will be introducing a free children's activity booklet with puzzles, games and an exciting new scarecrow hunt."

Visitors are also encouraged to dress up to take part in the Hallow-

een theme.
Spooky Spectacular will run every
day up to November 2. Hours will
also be extended until 9pm at weekends and during the October school
half-term holiday.



Bethan Davis as Winnie the Witch and Charlotte Prosser as Maidy prepare a witches' brew

# Two thirds stuck in the 'rent trap'

NEARLY two thirds of private renters in the Midlands are stuck in the 'rent trap' and unable to put any money towards a deposit for a home of their own, according to new figures from Shelter.

The report shows that the 'rent trap' is taking a grip with five million tenants in England unable to save towards a home of their own. The proportion who are not saving anything towards a deposit has jumped by 13 per cent. The charity is warning that sky-high rents and swelling house prices is killing the dream of home ownership for millions.

Figures from LSL Property Services showed that people in the West Midlands are paying an average of £560 per month on their rent.

Shelter's chief executive, Campbell Robb, said: "With

the 'rent trap' taking hold of young people and families across the Midlands, the prospect of a stable home is becoming a distant dream for far too many."

# Councillors in wrangle over pay for directors

fire for creating new senior management iobs with a pay rise up to £30,000 at the cash-strapped authority.

Bosses claim axing 11 senior management positions out of 22 at Dudley Council will save £1 million from staffing budgets under proposals expected to be ratified later this month.

But opposition councillors hit back at the council's Labour administration after it emerged that the 11 manager positions left will be on increased salaries.

# 'Strategic'

During the council's cabinet meeting last week, bosses claimed they had created new roles with more responsibilities requiring greater remuneration.

Five directors, who are in

Five directors, who are in charge of departments and report to the chief executive, and earn £104,604 per year, would be replaced by three 'strategic' directors.

The new 'strategic director for people' who manages children's services, adult social care, health and well being, will command a sal-ary between £122,500 and £130,000.

Salaries for the other two

Salaries for the other two positions — director of re-sources and transformation sources and transformation and director for the environ-ment, economy and housing — could be around £117,000 and £127,000. The 17 assistant direc-

tors, currently earning £70,049 a year, will be replaced by eight chief officer posts earning £89,000 under the scheme. Dudley Council says thatit

could be forced to increase agreed salaries under rules

# **By Andrew Turton**

called the market forces

called the marks supplement.
Conservative group leader Councillor Patrick Harley said if pay levels remained the same the authority could have saved up to an additional \$200.000.

additional £300,000.

People here at the council can believe these are very different jobs and very different roles," he said.

"To the people out there, the council taxpayers, they are the same roles and same responsibilities.

"And you have a hard task

selling that to those people.

"We do not believe that this is the right time to increase or adjust the salaries range that we worked very hard on when we were in control of the council."

UKIP councillor Paul Brothwood added: "At this time to actually be increas-ing salaries is not satisfac-tory." tory."
Council leader Councillor

David Sparks responded: "In order to attract people to do those jobs we have to pay more money than what

they are paid now."

The cabinet decision will go before a meeting of the full council on Monday, Oc-

# Old post office flats part of homes boost

DUDLEY'S historic former post office will be transformed into 21 apartments, as part of a town centre housing boom. It comes hot on the heels of plans to convert former council offices into more than 90 homes.

Dudley Council bosses want to encourage more people to live in the town centre as part of its regeneration. They say shops and other businesses would benefit from more trade. Dudley North MP Ian Austin has welcomed the scheme for the former post office which has been empty for more than 10 years. Mr Austin called the move a 'great idea' and called for further innovative ways to increase the number of homes in the centre while revitalising old buildings. "I think that is a great idea and the more people living in and around the town centre the more it will help shops and businesses," he said.

Regeneration boss councillor Judy Foster said more

Regeneration boss councillor Judy Foster said more homes in the town centre would help boost trade.

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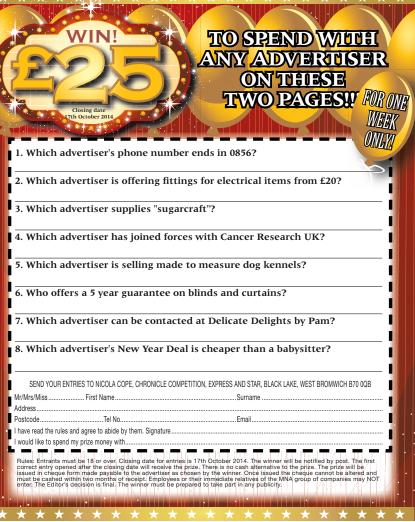
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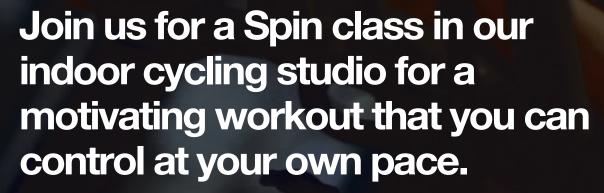
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# **MONDAY**

17.30 Spin30

18.00 Spin30

18.30 Spin30

19.00 Spin30

# **TUESDAY**

09.15 Spin

18.00 Spin

18.45 Spin

19.45 Spin

20.30 Spin30

# **WEDNESDAY**

09.30 Spin

17.30 Spin

18.15 Spin

19.00 Spin30

19.30 Spin30

# **THURSDAY**

10.00 Spin

17.30 Spin

18.15 Spin

19.00 Spin

# **FRIDAY**

10.30 Spin

17.30 Spin

18.15 Spin

# **SATURDAY**

08.45 Spin

09.30 Spin

# **SUNDAY**

08.45 Spin

09.30 Spin

17.30 Spin

# Caro is ready to Back It Up at NIA

MUSICAL highlights in-clude the rescheduled date by Dutch singer and new mum Caro Emerald at the NIA on Saturday. John Peel favourites

Millin Caro Emeral at the NIA on Saturday.

John Peel favourites Half Man Half Biscuit are at the Robin 2 in Bilston and punk survivors The Buzzcocks at The Institute, Digbeth, both tonight (Thursday). Tony Hadley, fresh from the Spandau Ballet reunion, will be singing their hits backed by an orchestra at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham on Friday. On Saturday music of The Beautiful South is presented by The South, featuring Dave Hemingway and Alison Wheeler from that fractured band, way and Anson wheeler from that fractured band, at the Robin 2. The same venue hosts an acoustic set by Cockney Rebel Steve Harley on Tuesday.

# Out for the count with fangs and feet

PREPARE for a dance macabre when director and choreographer Mark Bruce brings his award-winning Dracula to Dance&change at The Patrick Centre, the studio space in Birmingham Hippodrome. Jonathan Goddard plays the vampire aristocrat in a production that blends nightmare, eroticism and gore, October 15 to 18.

Other dance highlights include Birmingham Royal Ballet's triple bill, Shadows of War, which continues at Birmingham Hippodrome until Saturday. The company them tour before returning to the Hippodrome with festive treat The Nutcracker from November 28 to December 13. PREPARE for a dance ma-

# Back to the 1960s for more music nostalgia and miniskirts

# Gaga-ing to have a disco ball

FLAMBOYANT queen of dance-pop Lady Gaga brings her Artpop Ball to Birmingham city centre on Wednesday, October 15. The New Yorker first made her mark on the FLAMBOYANT

music scene in 2008 with debut album The Fame, which went on to sell 15 million copies and spawned the hits Poker Face, Just

Dance and Paparazzi.
Second and third albums
Born This Way and Artpop also hit the top of the

pop also not the top of the charts around the world. Her latest, Cheek to Cheek, is a collaboration with veteran crooner Tony Bennett featuring classics From the American song-book, inspired by their success with The Lady Is A Tramp on his Duets II album in 2011.

But expect pounding disco pop and arty weirdness in equal measure when she entertains her Little Monsters at the NIA. She returns for a second session on November 13.



Lady Gaga will probably not be wearing the mask to her ball in Birmingham next week

to hit 1960s musical Dreamboats and Petticoats, will bring another helping of musical nostalgia to Birmingham next week.

Again written by Birds Of A Feather duo Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran, the musical reintroduces the characters from Dreamboats but now it's 1963 and Mersey-beat rules with Beatlemania in full swing as our wanna-be

pop stars try to avoid being one hit wonders. With a live band on stage, this jukebox musical at the New Alex-andra Theatre from Mon-day to Saturday, October 18, with such hits at Twist

lay to Saturday, October 18, with such hits at Twist and Shout, Be My Baby and Pretty Woman.

Also set in 1963, but on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, is Wolverhampton Grand's autumn mega-hit Dirty Dancing, which builds up for its final climactic lift on Saturday night. Then Consider Yourself in for a treat when South Staffs Musical Theatre Company revive Lionel Bart's Dickens of a musical Oliver! Fagin, Bill, Dodger and Nancy will be picking a pocket or two from Tuesday to Saturday.

The inclusion of John Steinbeck's classic Ameri-

The inclusion of John Steinbeck's classic American novel Of Mice and Men on the syllabus is likely to mean lots of youngsters in the audience when Birmingham Repertory Theatre stage a version directed by Roxana Silbert from tomortown until November 1 row until November 1.

The Rep's Studio feature s the return of Dame Janet



**Dreamboats and Miniskirts** 

Suzman when the veteran Suzman when the veteran actress appears alongside Khayalethu Anthony in Solomon And Marion. Written and directed by Lara Foot, it tells of an elderly woman and the grandson of her ex-servant forging a friendship in the volatile entry to make the discount of nest anatheid friendship in the volatile en-vironment of post-apartheid South Africa. It is staged October 16 to November 1. For The Past 30 Years, at The Rep Door venue from

The Rep Door venue from tonight to Saturday, is based on interviews with Birmingham women who worked in the same field for three decades, including health, education and criminal justice.

# There is plenty to laugh about

THERE'S plenty to laugh about at the moment.

Tony Law is at the Slade Rooms tomorrow night (Friday) and Simon Evans is at the same venue on October 16. But Pete Johansson has cancelled his gig scheduled for tonight.

Across the city centre at the Civic and Wulfrun, Pub Landlord Al Murray returns on Friday and Paul Chowdhry performs on October 17.

Chowdnry performs on Oc-tober 17.
Other comedy gigs in-clude Doc Brown mixing stand up and hip hop at Birmingham Town Hall on

Birmingham I own riail on Saturday.

Birmingham Glee Club highlights include James Acaster tonight, Tim Key on Tuesday and former Bilston resident Cana-dian comic Tom Stade on Wachasday

# Singer Eddi will be the star attraction

FORMER Fairground Attraction singer Eddi Reader will be performing at the Birmingham Town Hall tomorrow (Friday). Hen new five song EP Back the Dogs is released next month.

new nve song EP Back
the Dogs is released next
month.

Tickets are £22.50 plus
transaction fee. Contact
the box office on 0121 780
4949. Findlay Napier is
Reader's special guest.
Black Country bluesman
Sunjay Brayne is playing at Newhampton Folk
Club in the upper room
of the Newhampton Inn,
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Reans, Wolverhampton, on
Saturday night. He will be
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# The X Factor

The final 12 take their chance to shine in the first live studio round, and with a wildcard twist reportedly planned for the show, they could be joined by four more acts in the battle for a record deal. They will be braving the spotlight to perform a selection of classic hits in a Number Ones-themed show. Confrontations and fierce differences of opinion are inevitable as the judges critique each performance and support the acts in their categories. Simon Cowell mentors the over-25s, Cheryl looks after the girls, Mel B has the boys and Louis Walsh is in charge of the groups. As usual, Dermot O'Leary is on presenting duties for the evening, and will be getting all the reaction from the judges and the contestants

# BBC<sub>1</sub>

6.00 Breakfast. 9.45 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.15 Live Formula 1: Russian Grand Prix Qualifying. 1.30 BBC News; Weather. 1.40 Fotoball Focus. 2.20 Gymnastics: World Artistic Championships. 3.50 The Great British Bake Off: The Final. (R) 4.50 Celebrity Mastermind. (R) 5.20 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 5.40 Pointless Celebrities.

6.30 Strictly Come Dancing. Strictly is nothing if not glamorous, but there nothing if not glamorous, but there are a few extra sparkles this week as the contestants take their inspiration from the silver screen in a movie-themed show, with Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell deciding who is a blockbuster and who is a box-office flop. What's who is a box-office flop. What's more, the judging quartet are not alone, as for one week only, singer Donny Osmond will be joining the panel to add his thoughts on the dancers' progress. As ever, Tess Daly introduces the twinkle-toed stars, while Claudia Winkleman chasts to them after their stars, while Claudia Winkleman chast to them after their performances – and watch out too for the professionals, who kick the show off with a spirited performance of There's blow Business Like Show Business. The results are tomorrow at 7.20pm. Doctor Who. A horrifying creature stalks the passengers of the Orient Express.

EXPRESS.

Casualty. A couple of old faces return to Holby as the team gathers to say farewell to Jeff, on an emotional day that proves draining for most. Ash can't help but feel ror most. Asin can't help but feel guilty about his colleaque's death, Dixie throws herself into work and Cal worries when Ethan disappears from his hospital bed to attend the funeral. Meanwhile, Lofty treats an OCD sufferer and a new member of staff makes an impression on Neal impression on Noel.

10.10 The National Lottery Live. Gaby Roslin reveals the numbers for the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

10.20 BBC News: Weather.

10.40 Mrs Brown's Boys. Newlyweds Dermot and Maria argue over whether they should buy their own home, while Grandad hopes to witness his own funeral; (R) National Lottery Update.

11.10 Film: Armageddon. (1998) Sci-fi thriller, with Bruce Willis.

1.30 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.35 BBC News.

### BBC2

8.55 Live Formula 1: Russian Grand Prix Third Practice. 10.15 Map Man. (R) 10.45 South Africa Walks. (R) 11.15 Corraine Pascale: How to Be a Better Cook. (R) 11.45 The Little Paris Kitchen: Cooking with Rachel Khoo. (R) 12.15 Rick Stein's Mediterranean Escapes. (R) 1.15 Film: The Gay Divorce. (1934) 2.55 Film: Top Hat. (1935) 4.30 Escape to the Continent. 5.00 The E100K House: Tricks of the Trade. (R) 6.00 Restoring England's Heritage.

6.00 Restoring England's Heritage. Gyles Brandreth visits historic London buildings in desperate need of restoration and investigates whether they have a future.

future.

30 Gardeners' World. Rachel de
Thame reports on how she fared
over the past year as she
attempted to grow cut flowers and
Carol Klein helps first-time
gardeners Dan and Dominique
plant a range of fruit. (R)
7.00 Flog It! Trade Secrets. Paul
Martin and the show's experts

Flog It! Trade Secrets. Paul Martin and the show's experts offer advice on making money from antiques and collectibles. Penguins – Spy in the Huddle. The second part of the documentary sees the chicks hatching and taking their first steps into the world – but as they soon discover, it can be a dangering lalge (R). dangerous place. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring is accused of leaving a light burning

accused of leaving a light burning in the church hall during a blackout, and receives a summons to appear in court. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)

Ol XL. Extended edition. Jason Manford, Aisling Bea and Johnny Vegas join regular panellist Alan Davies as host Stephen Fry asks a range of muestions on the range of questions on the interesting topic of location.

9.45 Film: The Gatekeepers. (2012)
Premiere. Documentary in which
six former heads of Shin Bet, the
Israeli secret service, share their
personal experiences of the lifeand-death decisions they were
forced to make.

11.20 The Gatekeepers: Newsnight

Debate.

11.50 Film: Shine. (1996) Biopic of David Helfgott, the talented but fragile Australian pianist overwhelmed by the pressure of his father's obsession with success. With Geoffrey Rush and 1.30 TOTP2. (R) 2.30 This Is BBC Two

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate
Challenge. 6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.40 Dino Dan: Trek's
Adventures. (R) 6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's
Adventures. (R) 7.05 Canimals. (R) 7.10
Canimals. (R) 7.20 Dm Nom Stones. (R) 7.25 Sooty. (R) 7.40 Mm Fean: The Animated Series. (R) 7.50 Matt Hatter
Chronicles. 8.20 Horn'd Henry. 8.30 The
Munch 80x. 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 The
Hungry Sallors. (R) 10.25 Murder, She
Wrote. (R) 11.20 ITV News. Weather.
11.30 Storage Hoarders. (R) 12.30 The
Unforgettable Hattle Jacques. (R) 1.05
Tipping Point. (R) 2.05 The X Factor. (R) 3.10 Film: Jurassic Park. (1930) 5.36
Regional Programme. 5.45 ITV News.
6.00 New You've Been Framed! 6.00 New You've Been Framed!

6.30 The Chase: Celebrity Special.
With Emmerdale star Tony With Emmerdale star Tony
Audenshaw (Bob Hope),
former gymnast Beth Tweddle,
2010 Strictly Come Dancing
champion Kara Tointon and X
Factor judge Louis Walsh. Bradley
Walsh hosts.

7.30 The X Factor. The final 12 take The X Factor. The final 12 take their chance to shine in the first live studio round, and with a wildcard twist reportedly planned for the show, they could be joined by four more acts in the battle for a record deal. They will be braving the spotlight to perform a selection of classic hits in a Number Ones-themed show. Confrontations and fierce differences of onipion are differences of opinion are inevitable as the judges critique each performance and support the acts in their categories. Simon Cowell mentors the over-25s, Cheryl looks after the girls Chery 100ks after the girls, Mel B has the boys and Louis Walsh is in charge of the groups. As usual, Dermot O'Leary is on presenting duties for the evening, and will be getting all the reaction from the judges and the contestants. The results are tomorrow at 8.15pm

10.00 Through the Keyhole. Keith Lemon tours mystery homes and challenges panellists Des O'Connor, Dave Berry and Myleene Klass to guess the identities of the famous occupants. Last in the series

11.00 ITV News: Weather. 11.15 Film: The Game. (1997) David Fincher's thriller, with Michael Douglas and Sean Penn.

1.30 Jackpot247. 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 3.45 ITV Nightscreen.

### **CHANNEL 4**

CHANNEL 4

6.05 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 6.30
Trans World Sport. 7.25 The Grid. 7.55
The Morning Line. 9.00 Weekend
Kitchen. 10.00 Everybody Loves
Raymond. (R) 10.30 Frassier. (R) 11.30 Trassier. (R) 11.00
Frassier. (R) 11.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R)
11.35 The Big Bang Theory. (R)
11.25 The Simpsons. (R) 12.55 Gadget
Man. (R) 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. Live
coverage from Newmarket and York.
4.05 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.40 Come
Dine with Me. (R) 5.10 Come Dine with
Me. (R) 5.40 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.40 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.10 Stars at Your Service. Pop Singer
Pixie Lott, DJ and presenter Dave
Berry and comedian Tim Vine offer
to do whatever is required of
them, all in the name of charity.
Last in the series.
7.05 Channel 4 News.

7 05 Channel 4 News

7.05 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Sarah Beeny's Double Your
House for Half the Money. A
couple plan to modernise their
1950s wreck in Altrincham,
Grater Manchester, while a
problematic project in Knebworth,
Hertfordshire, pluts the budget at
risk. Last in the series. (R)
8.15 Ceral Regime Nitserbo carill

risk. Last in the series. (R)

8.15 Grand Designs. Natasha Cargill
wants to build a home shaped like
two enormous periscopes in rural
Norfolk, but to obtain planning
permission, she has to ensure not
only that the materials are
sustainable, but also agree to
measure the transportation used
to deliver them. If these strict
criteria are not met she won't he to deliver them. If these strict criteria are not met, she won't be allowed to live there, and to add to the pressure, she has just \$230,000 to spend on construction and six months to complete the project. Kevin McCloud follows her progress. (R) Film: Hanna. (2011) A former ClA agent raises his daughter alond, teaching her to be the world's deadliest assassin. When she turns 16, she is sent to carry out her one

assassin. When she turns 16, she is sent to carry out her one intended mission, but as she travels the world in search of her target, she is pursued by a CIA operative with a link to her mysterious past. Action thriller, with Saoirse Ronan.

with Sabinse Rollan.

11.30 Rude Tube. A top 50 countdown of animals, including a woman swimming with a great white shark, a mad Brazilian goat, a clothes-stealing orang-utan and playful cats. (R)

**12.35 Film:** Gangster No 1. (2000) **2.20** Homeland. (R) **3.25** Hollyoaks.

# **CHANNEL 5**

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. 10.35 The Secret Life of Pets. (R) 11.00 The Nightman Pets. (R) 12.00 Can't Pay? Well Tale It Away. (R) 10.00 The Seven Ride! (1972) Western sequel, starring Lee van Cleef. 4.4 55 News Weekend. 4.50 Film: Deparation Crossbow. (1965) Second World War adventure, starring George Peppard. 7.05 World War II in Colour. This edition focuses on Japan's early involvement in the war and the country's efforts to flex its muscles around the Pacific. On December 7, 1941, the course of the Second World War changed dramatically when Japanese planes swooped in for a surprise attack on the US naval base at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, which led to America's entry into the conflict. Subsequently Japanese forces seized the British colonies of Malaya and Burms. French Indo-China, the Dutch East Indies, the US-controlled Philippines and a string of Pacific Islands. (R) 8.05 JFK's Secret Killer: The Evidence. Documentary examining the events during and directly after the assassination of US president John F Kennedy in November 1963, when he was shot and killed in Dealey Plaza. Dallas. The programme uses modern technology combined thy of JFR. Assassasin. (R) OF Ilm: Hang 'Em High, (1968) A lawman-turned-rancher is attacked by a lynch mohand.

9.00 Film: Hang 'Em High. (1968) A lawman-turned-rancher is 9.00 Film: Hang 'Em High. (1966) A lawman-turned-rancher is attacked by a lynch mob and hanged for a crime he did not commit, but is rescued before he dies. He returns to his former profession to hunt the mob down, but his desire for revenge clashes with his responsibility to bring them to trial alive. Western, starring Clini Eastwood. Inger Stevens, Ed Begley, James MacArthur and Dennis Hopper. Part of the Clini Lastwood Season. Calted for deytime broadcast.

11.25 Film: 3-10 to Yuma. (2007) A rancher escorts a notiforous outlaw on a dangerous journey to a station where a train will take the prisoner to jail. Western remake, 1.30 SuperCasino. 3-10 Benefit Brits by

1.30 SuperCasino. 3.10 Benefit Brits by the Sea. (R) 4.00 House Doctor. (R)

### **DIGITAL**

BBC Three

7.00 Film: Kung Fu Panda 2 (2011) 8.20 Great Movie Mistakes 2: The Sequel 8.30 Top Gear 9.30 Live at the Apollo 10.00 England's Worst Ever Football Team 11.00 Family Guy 1.35 The Revolution Will Be Televised 2.05 Bad Education 2.35 England's Worst Ever Football Team 3.35 Vodka Diaries 4.00 Close

BBC Four
7.00 Hidcote: A Garden for All Seasons
8.00 Horizon: Asteroids — The Good, the
Bad and the July 9.00 The Code 10.55
Birtian's Most Dangerous Songs: Listen
to the Banned 11.55 More Dangerous
Songs: And the Banned Played On 12.55
Top of the Pops: 13791.30 Horizon:
Asteroids — The Good, the Bad and the
July 2.30 Hidcote: A Garden for All
Seasons 3.30 Close

ITV2

1.35 Film: Babe: Pig in the City (1998)
3.25 Funniest Ever You've Been Framed!
4.30 You've Been Framed! Kiss Special
5.35 Film: Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters
Unleashed (2004) 7.25 Film: The World
Is Not Enough (1999) 10.00 The Xtra
Factor 11.00 Celebrity Julica 11.50 The
Job Lot 12.20 The X Factor 2.35 Life's
Funniest Moments 2.55 Feleshopping
5.55 ITV2 Nightscreen

118 Film: Columbo: Lady in Waiting (1971) 2.50 A Touch of Frost 4.45 Wycliffe 5.55 Inspector Morse 8.00 Rosemary & Thyme 9.00 Midsomer Murders 11.00 A Touch of Frost 12.40 Bomb Girls: The Movie 2.15 TiV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping

17V4
12.45 Firlish Superbike Championship Highlights 1.50 Film: Superman (1978) 4.45 Film: For Your Eyes Only (1981) 7.25 Live International Football 10.00 Storage Wars 11.30 International Football Highlights 1.00 James Cracknell: Sports Life Stories 2.00 Cheers 3.00 Teleshopping

2.00 Film: City of Ember (2008) 4.00 2.00 Film: City O Tember (2009). 4 The Big Bang Theory 6.00 How I Met Your Mother 7.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 7.30 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Unstoppable (2010) 11.00 The Inbetweeners 12.05 How! Met Your Mother 2.25 Bob's Burgers 3.10 The Cleveland Show 3.55 Happy Endings

Film4 11.00 Indiscreet (1958) 1.00 Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) 2.55 Shane (1953) 5.20 Titanic (1997) 9.00 Coming to America (1988) 11.20 The Crazies (2010) 1.15 Flirting with Disaster (1996)

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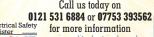
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# CHOICE



**Claire Danes** 

### Homeland (Channel 4, 9pm)

New series. The multi-awardwinning US drama makes a welcome return to our screens for its fourth season. The last time we saw Carrie Mathison she was pregnant with the late Brody's baby and about to take up a new post overseas. When we see her again, she's been promoted to the position of CIA Chief of Station in Kabul and is about to make the biggest decision of her career - she's received some valuable intelligence about a high value target from her counterpart in Islamabad. Should Carrie trust the information and act on it, or wait for further events to unfold? Meanwhile, Saul Berenson is now working in the private sector but hates it perhaps it won't be long before he's back in action too. Claire Danes and Mandy Patinkin star.

### BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 Sunday Morning Live. 11.00 Live Formula 1: Russian Grand Prix. 2.15 Sunday Politics. 3.03 Strictly Navratri. 4.00 Points of View. 4.15 Songs of Praise. 4.50 The Great British Bake Off: Class of 2013. 5.50 BBC News. 6.20 Countryfile. John Craven explores the life and work of composer Raiph Vaughan Williams, listening to a performance of The Lark Ascending by conductor

- to a performance of I he Lark Ascending by conductor Christopher Warren Green, and learning about some of the traditional instruments that had an influence on the music Vaughan Williams made. Ellie Harrison also looks back at memorable music-based items from the Countryfile archive, including Matt Baker archive, including watt baker getting a lesson in bell ringing, Julia Bradbury going on the trail of Benjamin Britten in Sussex and Adam Henson joining the yodelling shepherds of the Swiss Alps. Including Weather for the Week Ahead Neek Ahead
- 7.20 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. The two couples with the lowest scores dance again, their fates in the hands of Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Hornwood and Darey. Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell, and Donny Osmond performs.
- performs.

  Antiques Roadshow. The team visits the Roundhouse, Derby, where items include Clarice Cliff bookends, a picture by a renowned British artist and a silver christening cup with a surprising history.
- 9.00 Our Girl. As the unit prepares to our din. As the unit prepares to withdraw from Afghanistan, the captain and Smurf both declare their feelings for Molly. But then the entire platoon is sent on one final, terrifying mission.

10.00 BBC News; Weather.

- 10.30 Have I Got a Bit More News for You. Sue Perkins chairs the quiz, with team captains Ian Hislop and
- with team captains Ian Hislop and Paul Merton joined by a couple of guest panellists to take a comic look back at recent news events.

  11.10 Film: The Recruit, (2003) A hacker is recruited into the CIA and is given a top-secret within the agency's training programme. Thriller, starring Al Pacino.

1.00 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.05 BBC News.

### BBC2

6.00 Great British Garden Revival. (R)
7.00 Countryfile. (R) 8.00 Gardeners'
World. (R) 8.30 The Beechgrove Garden.
9.00 Saturday Kitchen Bees Biles. 10.30
The Great British Bake Off Masterclass.
(R) 11.30 The Great British Bake Off Masterclass; (R) Weather for the Week
Ahead. 12.35 Film: Dances with Wolves.
(1990) 3.25 Escape to the Continent.
3.55 Gymnastics: World Artistic. 3.55 Gymnastics: World Artistic Championships. 5.30 Rugby League: Super League Grand Final.

6.30 Flog It! Trade Secrets. Paul Martin and the show's experts offer advice on making money from antiques and collectibles. (R)

- Troffi antiques and conlectures. (rr)

  7.00 Human Universe. Professor Brian
  Cox examines how it was that in a
  universe made of stars, rocks and
  endless space, a conscious
  civilisation was born. His latest
  adventure takes him from a adventure takes him from a submerged space station in Star City on the outskirts of Moscow, to Ethiopia, high above in the great filt Valley, where he encounters the geladas, mankind's distant ancestors. Despite once being Africa's most successful primate, a species who at one time roamed across the entire continent, these drugs they are found in one just days they are found in one just place in the remote Ethiopian Highlands. Cox investigates why
- Inginatus. Our investigates why these ancestors retreated, yet modern mankind has expanded across the planet. (R) Wonders of the Monsoon. The effect of the rainy season on wildlife in Asia, with floods forcing animals to flee from a national park in north-east India in search of the safety of the hills
- 9.00 Sacred Rivers with Simon Reeve. The adventurer travels along the Ganges from the foothills of the Himalayas to the Bay of Bengal to explore how India's booming economy has affected its religious culture.
- 10.00 Mock the Week. Rob Beckett, Ed
- 10.00 Mock the Week. Rob Beckett, Ed Byrne, Mitton Jones and Zoe Lyons join regular panellists Hugh Dennis and Andy Parsons on the topical comedy quiz. (R) 10.35 Film: Kinky Boots. (2005) A man inherits a struggling shoe factory and finds salvation for his business in a drag artist's need for custom footwear. Comedy drama, starring Chiwette Ejidfor.

12.15 Film: Stolen. (2010) 1.40 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 2.35 Holby City (R) 3.35 This Is BBC Two.

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate
Challenge. 6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Pat
& Stan. (R) 6.40 Dino Dan: Trek's
Adventures. (R) 6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's
Adventures. (R) 6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's
Adventures. (R) 7.05 Canimals. (R) 7.10
Canimals. (R) 7.20 Dm Nom Stories. (R)
7.25 Sooty. (R) 7.40 Mr Bean: The
Animated Series. (R) 7.50 Ultimate
Spider-Man. 8.20 Horrid Henry. 8.30 Big
Time Rush. 9.00 The Aquabats! Super
Show! 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 Dickinson's
Real Deal. (R) 10.30 ITV News; Weather.
10.45 Film: Carry On Matron. (1972)
2.30 The X-Factor. (R) 3.00 Downton
Abbey. (R) 4.00 Regional Programme;
Weather. 4.15 ITV News; Weather. 4.30
Live International Football. Estonia v
England (Kick-off 5.00pm).
7.15 Sunday Night at the Palladium.

- England (Nek-on 5.00pm).

  7.15 Sunday Night at the Palladium.
  Bradley Walsh hosts the variety
  show, introducing performances
  by Art Garfunkel, Jimmy Tarbuck,
  Sarah Millican, Jimeoin, Diversity,
  the Pierces and classical comedy
  trio Sol3 Milo.
- 8.15 The X Factor Results. Dermot O'Leary presents the first live results show, including at least one elimination from the latest ack of honefuls
- Downton Abbey. We are at the halfway point of the series, and matters are hotting up nicely. Schoolteacher Sarah Bunting Schootleacher Sarah Bunting continues to wage her one-woman war against the Crawleys – before pushing them too far. Violet is too busy getting flustered about Prince Kuragin to notice, and finally confides in Isobel the truth about their shared past. Following her illicit trip to Liverpool with Lord Gillingham, Mary makes a decision about their relationship. Lord cillingnam, Mary makes a decision about their relationship – but does it have any future? Thomas returns to Downton a shadow of his former self, and Baxter wonders if there's more to his mystery lilness than he's letting on. Rose's father Shrimpie (guest star Peter Egan) is also back on the estate – with shocking

10.20 ITV News: Weather

10.35 International Football Highlights. Estonia v England. Action from the Euro 2016 Group E qualifier at the A Le Coq Arena in Tallinn, where the sides played their third match of the campaign.

11.35 Premiership Rugby Union. 12.35 The Store. 2.35 Motorsport UK. 3.25 British Superbike Championship Highlights. 4.15 ITV Nightscreen.

### **CHANNEL 4**

6.00 NFL: The American Football Show. (R) 7.00 Cardiff Half Marathon 7.55 FIM Superbike World Championship. 8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) 1.35 Deal or No Deal. 2.40 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 3.40 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 3.60 Thims 2 Monster in Paris. (2011) Premiere. Animated comedy. 6.00 Channel 4 News.

6.00 Channel 4 News. 6.30 Alan Carr Does Deal or No Deal. The Dream Factory opens its doors to another star contestant as Alan Carr goes head to head with the Banker. Joined by friends with the Banker. Joined by triends and family including Melanie Sykes and Michael Underwood, the comedian and presenter tries to guess the values of the famous mystery boxes in an attempt to win up to 250,000 for the Stand Up to Cancer charity. Hosted by Moel Edmonds. with an or Noel Edmonds – with an appearance by the Banker's temporary new employee Angelos Epithemiou.

- Eptimeniou.

  Guy Martin's Spitfire. In May 1940, a Mark 1 Spitfire was shot down and crash-landed on a beach in northern France, where it solwly sank into the sand. The wireckage was finally recovered in the 1980s and stored in France for more than 20 years. Guy Martin joins a two-year project to rebuild the aeroplane, revealing the engineering and skilis involved, and providing a fitting homage to the bravery of everyone involved in its service.

  Homeland. New series. Carrie is back in the Middle East, working as the Chief of Station in Kabul, where she faces a critical decision after receiving intelligence about a prominent target. 7.30 Guy Martin's Spitfire. In May

prominent target.

10.5Film: Law Abliding Citizen.
(2009) A man is forced to witness
the murder of his wife and
daughter, and is driven to despair
when one of the perpetrators
walks free at trial. Vears later, he
begins a campaign of vigilante
violence, seeking revenge on the
killers and the justice system that
failed to punish them, particularly
an assistant district attorney who
allowed the defendant to make a allowed the defendant to make a deal during the court proceedings. Thriller, with Gerard Butler.

12.10 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) 1.05 American Football Live.

### **CHANNEL 5**

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshakel: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Carl. (R) 6.15 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 6.30 Seaside Artics. 6.35 The Mrf Men Show. (R) 6.50 Choe's Closet. (R) 7.00 Olly the Little White Van. (R) 7.10 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.25 Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.40 Paw Patrol. 8.00 Little Princess. (R) 8.10 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corty. (R) 8.30 Wanda and the Aliein. 8.45 Rupert Bear. (R) 9.00 Ben and Holly Stittle Kingdom. (R) 9.15.10! Jamm. (R) 9.30 Lazy Town. (R) 10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. 10.25 Access. (R) 10.30 Police Interceptors. (R) 11.25 Police Interceptors. (R) 11.25 Pilim: Daddy Day Camp. (2007) Comedy sequel, starring Cuba Gooding Jr. 3.00 Filim: Along Came Polly. (2004) Romantic comedy, starring Ben Stiller and Jennifer Aniston. 4.40 Filim: Tarzan. (1999) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Tony Goldwyn.

6.20 5 News Weekend.

6.20 5 News Weekend.
6.25 Film: Spider-Man 3. (2007) A sinister alien parasite brings out the web-slinging hero's darker side, filling him with thoughts of revenge on his uncle's murderer, the shape-shifting Sandman. Meanwhile, he also has to content with the challenge of his best friend following in his father's villainous footsteps—and a jealous rival developing superpowers of his own. superpowers of his own. Superhero sequel, with Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst and James Franco. Edited for violence and flashing images.

8.55 Gotham: Exclusive Preview. A look ahead to the crime thriller based on characters from the Batman comics that starts on 5 tomorrow night and follows Jim Gordon's rise from rookie detective to commissioner. (R)

9.00 Film: 2012. (2009) A scientist Film: 2012. (2009) A Scientist learns the world is soon to face a global catactysm that will wipe out the human race, but finds the US president has plans to secretly save a fraction of the population, leaving everyone else to die. A writer learns of this scheme, and writer learns of this scheme, and as the world is devastated by earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, he tries to get his family to the last safe refuge. Disaster movie, with John Cusack.

12.00 Film: Alien Hunter, (2003) 1.35 SuperCasino. 3.10 The Gadget Show. (R) 4.00 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 5.15 Angels of Jarm. (R)

### **DIGITAL**

**BBC Three** 

BBC Three
7.00 Formula 1 8.15 Doctor Who 9.00
Come Fly with Me 10.00 Family Guy
10.45 Bad Education 11.15 The
Revolution Will Be Televised 11.45
American Dad 112.30 Film: Black Sheep
(2006) 1.55 Bad Education 2.25 The
Revolution Will Be Televised 2.55
Impractical Jokers 3.25 Bad Education
3.55 Close

3.55 Close
BBC Four
7.00 Crossing England in a Punt: River of
Dreams 8.00 Rome: A History of the
Eternal City 9.00 Mechanical Marvels:
Clockwork Dreams 10.00 The Sky at
Night 10.30 Film: Elles (2011) 12.05
Imagine – Jimi Hendrix: Heart My Train a
Comin' 1.35 Great Guitar Riffs at the BBC
2.35 Mechanical Marvels: Clockwork
Dreams 3.35 Close

1.15 Film: Wild Wild West (1999) 3.20 1.15 Film: Wild Wild West (1999) 3.20 The X Factor 5.50 The Xtra Factor 6.55 Film: Back to the Future (1985) 9.15 The Xtra Factor 10.15 Tircked 11.15 Bad Bridesmaid 12.20 Film: Not Another Teen Movie (2001) 2.10 Fake Reaction 2.45 Teleshopping 5.45 ITV2 Nightscreen

1.25 Film: Columbo: A Stitch in Crime (1973) 3.05 Film: Carry On Cruising (1962) 4.55 Agatha Christies Marple 7.00 Lewis 9.00 The Best of the Royal Variety 10.0 Film: Changeling (2008) 12.55 William and Mary 2.35 World Kitchen 3.00 Movies Now 3.10 IT/3 Nightscreen 3.40 Emmerdale

6.30 Motorway Patrol 7.00 The Car Chasers 8.00 Premiership Rugby Union 9.00 Film: Mortal Kombat: Annihilation (1997) 10.50 Film: Basic (2003) 12.55 River Monsters 1.55 Jean-Claude Van Damme: Behind Closed Doors 2.55 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping

E4
12.30 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 1.30
Film: Alvin and the Chipmunks (2007)
3.30 Melissa & Joey 4.30 Suburgatory
5.00 New Girl 5.30 The Big Bang Theory
8.00 Film: St Trinian's (2007) 10.00 Hibberteeners 1.105 Rude Tube: Ultimate
Champions 12.10 Glue 1.15 The Mindy
Project 1.45 Rules of Engagement 2.30
Rude Tube: Ultimate Champions
Film4

Film 1.00 Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (2011) 2.55 The Phantom (1996) 4.50 The Italian Job (1969) 6.50 The Selfish Giant Interview Special 6.55 Johnny English Reborn (2011) 9.00 The Tourist (2010) 11.05 Mr Nice (2010) 1.25 Erother (2010) 1.05 Mr Nice (2010) 1.25 Erother (2010) 3.50 (Close 1.25 Brother (2000) 3.50 Close

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### **CHRISTMAS - 4 NIGHTS** Days **NOVEMBER** £ **LONDON THEATRE - 2 NIGHTS Bournemouth Marriott** Scotland - T & T All Inclusive 5 275 00 Isle of Wight – T & T 225.00 Blackpool Hilton **OCTOBER** £ Thursford Christmas Show 225.00 **Swindon Hilton** 235.00 Isle of Wight - Queensmead Matilda - Hilton 225.00 10 Doc Martin's Cornwall 225.00 Charlie & Chocolate Factory - Hilton 225.00 10 14 Scotland - T & T All Inclusive 275 00 31 Jersey Boys – Marriott 189.50 **TWIXMAS** British Memories Inc Duxford 189.50 Historic York - 2 Nights 14 York & Manchester Xmas Market 135.00 **NOVEMBER** 18 Cruise to Holland (Beatles Tribute) 3 159.50 Penny Lane - 2 Nights 21 Winchester & Gloucester Xmas Markets 3 145.00 Paris & Bruges – 2 Nights 199.50 Billy Elliot - Marriott 21 Winter Wonderland London 145.00 Mystery Weekend – 1 Night Miss Saigon – Hilton Miss Saigon – Hilton 225.00 22 Mystery Weekend 99.50 14 225.00 Koblenz German Markets by Cruise Ferry 5 325.00 NFW YFAR Les Miserables - Marriott 225.00 Rüdesheim Christmas Market 14 249.00 York Hilton – 3 Nights 14 War Horse – Marriott 215.00 28 Festival of Christmas & Bath 159.00 Jersey Boys - Marriott 189.50 Cardiff Angel - 3 Nights 28 Bath, Bristol & Worcester 149.50 London Day – Made in Dagenham London Day – Matilda 26 79.50 28 Berkshire Hilton - 3 Nights 3 St Nicholas Favre York 145.00 79.50 Wales Hilton – 3 Nights **DECEMBER** Isle of Wight - Queensmead - 4 Nights 425.00 Cornish All Inclusive 199.50 **DECEMBER Thursford Christmas Show** 325.00 **Bath & Cotswolds** 145.00 Jersey Boys - Hilton 225.00 Lincoln Christmas Market & York 3 145.00 Lion King - Marriott 225.00 27 Durham & Lincoln – Redworth Hall 3 179.50 Cornish All Inclusive 199.50 8 Valkenburg & Xmas Markets 285.00 8 Warners Bembridge – Turkey & Tinsel 295.00 12 Rüdesheim Christmas Market 239.00 12 139.50 Canterbury, Rochester & London Xmas Markets 3 **Bath & Oxford Christmas Markets** 145.00 **Grassington Festival & York** 145.00



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# 24 FILM CHOICES

### The Descent, Channel 5, 10.55pm

A woman recovering from a personal tragedy joins a group of friends on a caving expedition. However, their adventure takes a horrific turn when they find themselves trapped in an unexplored cavern, where savage creatures are lurking in the shadows. Horror from Dog Soldiers director Neil Marshall, starring Shauna Macdonald, Natalie Mendoza, Alex Reid and Nora-Jane Noone. (2005)

### TUESDAY

Elizabeth: The Golden Age, ITV, 10.40pm

Queen Elizabeth I faces threats at home and abroad, as Mary, Queen of Scots plots against her while the King of Spain builds a vast armada to undertake an invasion of England. Unable to reconcile her feelings for the dashing Sir Walter Raleigh with her duty to her country, the monarch engineers a romance between the courtier and one of her ladies-in-waiting. Historical drama seguel, with Cate Blanchett, Clive Owen, Geoffrey Rush and Samantha Morton. (2007)



The Descent, Monday, Channel 5, 10.55pm

### WEDNESDAY

Secrets of an Undercover Wife, Channel 5, 3.15pm A newlywed wife goes undercover to find the truth when her husband is arrested and convicted of murder and embezzlement. However, while trying to clear his name, she unearths troubling evidence that links his business to the Mob. Crime drama, starring Shawnee Smith and Michael Woods, (2007)

A Trick of the Mind, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman discovers a private eye is spying on her husband. When she confronts the detective, he claims her spouse is holding secrets back and that her life is in danger if she remains with him. She faces a dilemma over who to believe and how to uncover the truth without revealing her suspicions. Thriller, starring Alexandra Holden and Stacy Grant. (2006)

Couples Retreat, ITV, 11.10pm
A couple on the brink of divorce sign up for relationship therapy on a tropical island, but find they can save money if they persuade their friends to join them. Three more couples go along for the holiday, thinking they do not need any help – but the unconventional treatment soon exposes cracks in their relationships. Comedy, starring Vince Vaughn and Malin Akerman. (2009)

# **PICK OF THE WEEK**

# **Rookie detective is** doing things by the book

If you ever wondered what a pre-Batman origins story would look like filtered through the mind of The Mentalist creator Bruno Heller and helmed by CSI veteran Danny Cannon, then this is it.

One of the most talked about new dramas of the autumn, Gotham centres on brave, earnest new detective James Gordon (Ben McKenzie).

Eager to prove himself, he is partnered with the brash police veteran Harvey Bullock (Donal Logue), and the pair stumble upon Gotham city's highest profile case – the murder of local billionations. Thomas and Martha Wayne.

Gordon meets the sole survivor at the scene of the crime – the Waynes' 12-year-old son, Bruce (David Mazouz).

Moved by his loss, the rookie detective vows to catch the killer.

While navigating the shady world of Gotham's criminal justice system, Gordon crosses paths with gang boss Fish Mooney (Jada Pinkett Smith), mob kingpin Carmine Falcone (John Dorman), and many of the characters who will become iconic

They include a teenage Selina Kyle/ Catwoman (Camren Bicondova); pending Penguin Oswald Cobblepot (Robin Lord Taylor), and the future Riddler, Edward Nygma (Cory Michael Smith).

For Blighty's own Sean Pertwee. landing the role of Bruce Wayne's guardian/butler Alfred Pennyworth, it was something of a dream come

He admits he was a fan of classic 1960s Adam West TV growing up.

"Absolutely. The famous shark scene stuck in my mind," Sean explains. "I've been a fan of the series right the way through.

"To be involved with a re-imagining of something I've lowed is vaguely terrifying, but also not that it's out there, we are delighted that I think we've pleased the legions of fans and the legions of new fans that we hope to bring to it. We're very proud."

Perhaps the best comparison for Gotham is Superman origins

series Smallville, which ran for a decade.

Is Sean prepared for the fact he could spend at least the next 10 years of his life filming in New York?

"Well that suits me fine." he explains. "Well that suits me rine, ne explain:
"Don't get me wrong; I love my home
I get very homesick when I watch
Chelsea; I miss my home, but I can't
tell you how lucky and proud I feel to
be here."

The Gotham cast have become a close-knit family since production began. According to Pertwee, they "go to every table read together," we really try and keep our heads down and concentrate on the quality of the work."

As you'll see by this pilot, it's a stylish affair which may revisit the pivotal tragic alley shootings from Tim Burton's Batman and Christopher Nolan's Batman Begins, but then it becomes its own creature.

Decomes its own creature.

Like Gromit laying tracks in front of his runaway train, Sean Pertwee and the Gotham crew are busily trying to stay ahead of their production schedule while retaining the high production quality of this first instalment.



Ben McKenzie and David Mazouz star in Gotham, Monday, Channel 5, 9pm

# **BEST OF THE REST**

# MONDAY New Tricks BBC1, 9pm

An elderly amateur sleuth who was a friend of Danny's is murdered, and he ends up embroiled in the case when his photo is found at the scene. However, the cold case copper becomes convinced that the secret to uncovering her real killer lies within the last case she was working on. Picking up where she left off, he travels to the village of Minchampton, where a woman was said to have been murdered by a local lad 25 years previously. Meanwhile, Sasha is left to cope with the investigating officer on the modern-day Miss Marple's murder – an overbearing contemporary from her Hendon training, by the name of DCI Grace Mackie – and Steve lets Gerry stay with him when he is evicted, but soon comes to regret the

# act of kindness. TUESDAY

The Apprentice

BBC1, 9pm New series. Alan Sugar begins his 10th search for new business blood – and the fourth since he changed the format from a multi-week job interview to the search for a partner, offering the hopefuls a £250,000 investment in a new start-up company. As usual, the millionaire host sets out his stall with

his introductory pen talk, after which the entrepreneurs are divided into teams and it's straight on with the first task - selling the past decade's worth of Apprentice goods in just one day. All the previous selling challenges' merchandise has been combined, and the teams - boys v girls. of course - must think outside the box to increase their margins. As in previous series. Nick Hewer and Karren Brady are Lord Sugar's 'eyes and ears', but the real fun comes in the boardroom, as the challenge is picked apart and the excuses come thick and fast, before the fired candidate takes a taxi ride home. Continues tomorrow. The Apprentice: You're Fired follows on

# WEDNESDAY Waterloo Road BBC1, 8pm New series. Neil Pearson and

Nicola Stephenson join the cast as new headmaster Vaughan Fitzgerald and his partner, art teacher Allie Westbrook as Waterloo Road opens its doors for another new term. Vaughan is the kind of dynamic, forward thinking chap the school needs

madly in love, their home life is far from easy thanks to their blended family - they have four children between them from previous relationships, and none of them gets along. Meanwhile, Christine promises she will help Darren deal with his difficult situation at home, but nothing could

prepare them for what happens when they try to confront his mother. Finally, George discovers the hard way why nobody messes with the Barry family

THURSDAY The Great Fire ITV, 9pm

New series. Drama detailing the stories of the people of London during the Great Fire of 1666. Widower and single father Thomas Farriner is the king's baker, currently providing the Navy with bread and biscuits from his Pudding Lane bakery. His sister-in-law Sarah often helps out at the shop - a distraction from the fact her

missing at sea for months now. Thomas is dismayed to learn from Navy official Samuel Pepvs that it's unlikely he'll be paid for his latest job, owing to the expense of the war against the Dutch. However, he instead sends the baker away with a letter that could be the key to Sarah's closure. Meanwhile, in the palace of Whitehall, the king attends a stately dance, where an attempt on his life is foiled. Later, Thomas returns to find the bakery ablaze, with his two daughters asleep upstairs. Starring Andrew Buchan and Jack Huston

wayward husband (Thomas's brother) has been

### Friday Not Going Out BBC1, 9,30pm

Lee Mack's not having much luck with lights these days, whether it's the fizzling sign at the start of this show, the blackout during his recent Sheffield gig, or the dimly lit area at the start of this seventh series. Lee and Lucy have enjoyed a spot of culture at their local cinema, but the sparkle of a French movie is soon diminished when the romantic walk home finds them in an imposing underpass. She has her handbag stolen by a bunch of cocky youths from under his nose. Given the fact the layabout failed to protect her, or come up with an accurate description of their muggers, Lee feels the urge to prove his manliness



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6

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all the digits from 1 to 9.

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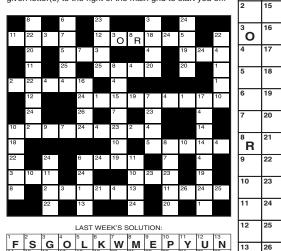
8 6

5

# Thursday, October 9,

# Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



# **Cryptic Clues:**

**Double Crossword** 

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both

# fit the same grid.

- 1 Defender in reverse? (4)
- 3. Going for match point? (8)
- 8. Just the man to cause a lady to lose her head? (4)
- 9. Demi-pension? (4-4)
- 11. Does the artist use it to pull in readers?
- 13. Observe article boil
- (6) 14. Not leaving bequests alone as one wishes? (2,4)
- 17. Does he beat the air angrily to solve his problems? (9,3)
- 20. Scholar was a rotter to cut up mice (8) 21. Worker one takes
- to be opposed (4) 22. Hated trial indeed!
- 23. A legend of gloomy things (4)

# Down

- 1 Hold aloft a food vessel (8)
- 2. Had race as party game, perhaps (7) 4. Nothing at the top
- of the row shows colour (6) 5. Unmanageable
- car ferry to change hands (10) 6. Tear about after one
- and become angry (5)
- 7. No sad song, obviously (4)

  10. Does she have
- high-flying notions of entertainment?
- 12. Flatter in a mild sort of way? (8) 15. Why babyhood is
- never real? (7) 16. We hail for some
- time (6) 18. Respond to influence at rehearsal?
- 19. One of the two the worker has presumably (4)

### Quick Clues:

- 1. Jetty (4)
- 3. Entire (8) 8. Storm (4)
- 9. Ailment (8)
- 11. Go-between (12)
- 13. Attic (6)
- 14. Writer (6)
- 17. Teacher (12)
- 20. Revered (8) 21. Harvest (4)
- 22 Led (8)
- 23. Leave out (4)

- 1. Wedding (8)
- 2. Barge (7)
- 4. Supposed (6)
- 5. Countrified (10)
- 6. Senior (5)
- 7. Merit (4) 10. Uncertain (10)
- 12. Effete (8)
- **15.** Meantime (7)
- 16. Maintain (6) 18. Light boat (5)
- 19. Lash (4)

# Fill in the grid below so that LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS > every column boxes contains

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Chiropodist; 9 Realist; 10 Clasp; 11 Bathe; 12 Furrier; 13 Impute; 15 Zeal-ot; 18 Goodbye; 20 Plate; 22 Abuts; 23 Strange; 24 See eye to eye. Down: 2 Heart; 3 Raiment; 4 Put off; 5 Decor; 6 Spaniel; 7 Brobdingnag; 8 Spirit level; 14 Profuse; 16 Esparto; 17 Lessee;

Spirit level; 14 Profuse; 16 Esparto; 17 Lessee; 19 Baste; 21 Annoy. OUICK - Across: 1 Contraption; 9 Amateur; 10 Theme; 11 Heeds; 12 Prevail; 13 Offend; 15 Cleric; 18 Abridge; 20 Odium; 22 Learn; 23 Erosion; 24 Necessitate. Down: 2 Orate; 3 Treason; 4 Abrupt; 5 Title; 6 Open air; 7 Fashionable; 8 Replacement; 14 Forsake; 16 Look-out; 17 Revels; 19 Dunce; 21 Idiot.

# Quiz

Palmer?

1. In Shakespeare's play, who killed Macbeth?

| R | D | I X | H | Z | B | T | A | A | Q | V | C

- What type of animal is a macaque? In which county is RAF aerodrome
- Manston? Which actress was born Vera Jayne
- 5. Which annual 24-hour motor race was founded in 1923?
- 6. Who wrote the Just So Stories in 1902?
- Of which island group is Luzon the largest?
- In which Dutch city was Rembrandt born?
- On which river is Keighley?
- 10. With which country did England wage the War of Jenkins's Ear?

### Last week's solutions:

Quiz:1 Beethoven; 2 Alexandra; 3 Alabama; 4 Belgian; 5 Papua New Guinea; 6 Jack Dempsey; 7 Vostok 1; 8 San Antonio; 9 Kirov; 10 Queen Anne. 11 Fianna Fail: 12 Florence: 13 Truman Capote; 4 Childermas; 5 Churchill and Roosevelt

Niner: IMPRUDENT

# Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

> gives a French river, gives a British river, 12695284 gives a Scottish port.

2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

# 

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Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options).

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# **Well-maintained house** is for sale in Netherton



three-bedroomed semi-detached property in Lombard Avenue, Netherton, is in a popular residential area.

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It has an entrance hall with under stairs storage, a lounge with a marble effect hearth housing an electric fire, a breakfast kitchen with part tiled walls and a tiled floor, an integrated electric oven, gas hob, fridge and freezer.

There are three bedrooms, a bathroom, gas central heating and double glazing, driveway, a garage and a rear

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\* Kitchen
\* Garage
\* Gas boiler heating radiaitors EPC=tbc
Offers in the region of £135,000

# Oldbury



Sunnybank Road

- perior detached family house

- Superior detached family house
  Four bedrooms
  Lounge & Dining room
  Fitted kitchen/breakfast room
  Fitted cloakroom
  Well appointed bathroom & ensuite
  Enclosed gardens & large garage
  Fitted carpets
  EPC = B
  £254,950

- Halesowen

# Oldbury



- Pitfields Road

- Bathroom and separate wc Good sized rear garden EPC=tbd

Offers in the region of £114,950

### Quinton

Tansley Hill Road

Dudley



Extensive garaging and driveway parking A must view property. EPC=E

Offers in the region of £550,000

- Extended Living Room
- Three bedrooms Pleasant rear garden EPC=tbc

Offers in the region of £179,950

### Halesowen



Middlefield Avenue

- Middlefield Avenue

  \* Tastefully presented five bedroom
  semi-detached house \* House
  bethroom with corner bath and ensuite
  shower room \* Lounge \* Dining room
  \* Kitchen/breakfast room
  \* Separate w.c. \* Garage
  \* Pleasant rear gardens
  \* Gas boiler heating radiators
  \* Double glazing to windows
  \* A must view property EPC=D
  Offers in the region of £239,950



Traditional style semi detached hou In need of general modernisation and

The Lodge 283-285 Hagley Road

Ground floor flat

Oldbury

Chestnut Road

- \* Ground floor flat

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  \* Living room with door onto balcony

  \* Parking space

  \* No chain

  EPC=D

Offers in the region of £94,950

# \*In need of general modernisation and improvement \*Three bedrooms \*Bathroom with separate wc \*Two reception rooms \*Kitchen \*Gas boiler heating radiators \*Small side garage \*Somewhat overgrown garden EPC=E Offers in the region of £135,000 £160.000 Quinton

Quinton

Ridgacre Road



\* Integral garage

\* Good sized rear garden EPC=D

Three bedrooms

- Thee beatonis
  Two reception rooms
  Well appointed bathroom
  Rear garden
  No chain EPC=E

Offers in the region of £169,950

### Halesowen



- 19 Manor Abbey Road

  \* Semi-detached house

  \* 3 Bedrooms (some with fitted wardrobes) \* Bathroom with corner bath & shower over \* Kitchen with hob, oven & extract hood \* Pantry, Utility, W.C & playroom \* GCH & DG windows, Alarm \* EPC = C \*Available from from 6/10/14!

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### Halesowen



- In need of general modernisation. Traditional link detached house full of
- potential
  \* Three bedrooms & bathroom
  \* Two reception rooms
  \* Kitchen, integral wc
  \* Small side garage. Good sized
  gardens EPC=F

Oak Barn Road



Offers in the region of £165.000



Offers in the region of £149.950



Belgrave Road

# Bartley Green



- Shower room
  Garage EPC=D

Offers in the region of £139.950



Glaslyn Avenue

- \* Ground Floor Flat
  \*Open plan Kitchen/Dining/Living area
  \* Two bedrooms
- Two bedrooms

  Bathroom and en-suite shower room

  Garage EPC =C

Offers in the region of £119,950



Woodhouse Road

- ргеактаst/kitchen

  \* Conservatory

  \* First floor shower and downstairs wo

  \* EPC =E

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Acorn Road

- Lovely views EPC=D

- \* Mid terraced property \* Breakfast kitchen \* Three Bedrooms

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# \* Link detached house \* Kitchen/Dining room \* Living room \* Two bedrooms \* Shower room



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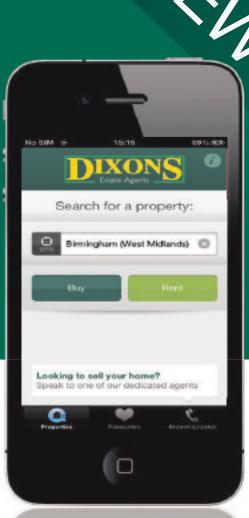
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# Bromsgrove Street, Halesowen



A three bedroom semi detached house offering vacant possession and benefitting from porch, entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen and bathroom

# King Street, Cradley Heath



Modern ground floor apartment comprising lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, en-suite, bathroom, allocated parking and communal gardens

# Sedgley Road, Dudley



An impressive detached five bedroom property comprising kitchen, three reception rooms, conservatory, utility room, bathroom and en-suite.

Queens Drive, Rowley Regis



# Offers Over£175,000

A traditional detached house briefly comprising kitchen breakfast room, conservatory and three hedrooms

### Queens Drive, Rowley Regis



# Offers Over£100,000

A traditional bay fronted, three bedroom semi detached house in need of some moderisation. Early viewing recommended.

### Hill Passage, Cradley Heath



A modern two bedroom apartment in purpose built block having secure allocated parking and communal

### Breamore Crescent, Dudley



### £280.000

Situated in a sought after area this detached four bedroom property comprises kitchen/diner, lounge, conservatory, bathroom and en-suite.

### Castle Road, Tipton



Detached three bedroom property comprising living room, dining room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, upstairs WC, rear garden and driveway.

### Corporation Road, Dudley



# £90,000

Semi detached three bedroom property comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, downstairs WC, upstairs bathroom and front and rear gardens.

### Gower Road, Halesowen



An extended traditional three bedroom semi detached house comprising two reception rooms, extended kitchen and family bathroom.

# Swann Road, Bilston



Semi detached two bedroom property comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, upstairs bathroom, front and rear gardens and driveway.

# Public Notice



96 Marigold Crescent, Dudley, DY13NX We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £85,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

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# Tough Panda does the job

By Matt Joy

Is the regular Panda 4x4 not rugged enough for you? If so, Fiat has developed a tough-looking mini go-anywhere SUV.

Taking a leaf out of the books used by the big boys in developing beefy 4x4s, Fiat has produced a rough, tough version of its supermini-sized Panda. And while all-wheel drive is already an option, chunky bodystyling and an obvious focus on the great outdoors marks the Panda Cross out as a niche vehicle in an already small market.

That said, there's no denying that Fiat's baby 4x4 doesn't look the part. The micro SUV boasts all the right kit – bash plates, rugged plastic trim, a lofty stance, Tonka toy styling – but is also capable of talking the talk thanks to an intelligent, switchable 4x4 drive system.

Try to resist jokes comparing Fiat's Panda Cross to something that's fallen out of a cereal box; the diminutive 4x4 has been styled to appeal to the new generation of urban warriors keen to mix the rigours of city life with aspirations of rural walking holidays and countryside getaways.

And in this context, the Panda's beefy steroid-enhanced appearance makes

Ground clearance isn't a whole lot more than the regular Panda 4x4 variant, but thanks to the inclusion of those chunky tyres, shiny bash plates, plastic rubbing strips and exposed towing eyes, the Cross looks like it could tackle almost anything.

And it's a far cry from the famous angular first generation Panda 4x4 you can still find parked halfway up a Swiss mountain ski resort.

What's not to like about being able to scramble up hills, splash through streams and plug mud all day long? In the Panda Cross you can do all of this and more, thanks to the generous inclusion of all-season tyres and the ability to switch the transmission from city friendly two-wheel drive to a locked up mode for slow speed manepures.

And when you're not boldly going where no Panda has gone before, the car's cabin offers enough room for a small family, while everything inside is familiar Panda territory – the controls, audio unit, decent levels of oddment storace.

### **Torque**

Popularity-wise it's likely to be the petrol option that secures the most buyers. This means a 0.9-litre TwinAir motor producing 90 horsepower.

And while the diesel, a 1.3-litre 80 horsepower unit, produces more torque, the TwinAir gains a tweaked six-speed manual gearbox complete with a low 'crawler' first gear

The result is brisk performance on the flat, with the gutsy TwinAir motor proving willing and flexible when pushed hard. The extra ground clearance and body protection do a good job of keeping you moving when on the rough stuff.

Unless the terrain is seriously tough, leaving the transmission in auto works surprisingly well for most slippery conditions, although 'off road' mode adds considerable peace of mind as it forces the



'It looks like a Tonka toy. That last attribute alone has got to be worth the asking price, surely?' system to stay in all-wheel drive mode so long as you stay below 30mph. And while this might sound like overkill for city motoring, the Panda's lofty driving position, slick controls, light steering and small size all help make light work of the battling through the urban jungle.

If you just want a competent city car then the Panda Cross is going to be a little OTT, but if you want to make a statement and

drive a car that's capable of squeezing into city centre parking spaces during the week and hitting the trail at the weekend, the Cross is hard to beat.

It's not alone in this market, but it comes well equipped, its maker boasts a solid reputation for delivering such cars and it looks like a Tonka toy. That last attribute alone has got to be worth the asking price,



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The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. \*Model shown: SX4 S-Cross 1.6 SZ5 available at £20,249 on the road. SX4 S-Cross range - SX4 S-C



# Audi's armchair motoring

# By Graham Breeze

It had been a while since last driving the Audi A6 Allroad Quattro so a 300 mile motorway journey was the perfect test.

Because make no mistake the 3.0BiTDi (313PS) version is the perfect motorway cruiser with just about everything you could want for that long and boring trip.

If armchair style comfort isn't enough to keep you happy then an engine which punches from 0-62mph in less than six seconds and will top speed at 155mph should keep you interested.

This A6 really does have the wow factor or enough X-factor to keep even Simon Cowell satisfied



Complete with an eight-speed Tiptronic gear system this third generation A6 is stylish, comfortable and exciting to drive once you've remembered how to operate the maze of electronic add-ons which Audi has become famous for

The recipe Audi follows to make the A6 Allroad hasn't changed much over the years but the concept has matured to meet the demands of the modern day motorist.

Adjustable air suspension is now used differently to raise the car only when need ed, rather than giving the car a permanently raised off-road look. This adds to the eye-catching appearance which means that, although there are thousands of A6s on our roads, they still command a second

### Handle

The benefits of the four wheel drive system are immediately obvious and the A6 Allroad is a dream to handle, both on the motorway or on country roads

Being able to dip the accelerator pedal at high speed and get an immediate and beautifully throaty response was the best part of driving this A6, meaning you could accelerate your way out of any motorway situation with ease.

Equipment levels are high, with all A6

models getting the MMI navigation system, leather upholstery, 18-inch alloy wheels, front and rear parking sensors and hill descent control.

The test car would set you back just

over £49,000 but with the added extras that price shoots to £60,000.

For the extra £11,000 you get power door closing, a range-topping technology pack which gives MMI Navigation Plus,



'Audi success story goes on and on and if you're not frightened off by the price the A6 Allroad is a good 'choice' system and lane assist warning and lots of other add-ons

There is also a Bose surround sound system, heated front seats and a glove compartment mounted CD changer.

What not to forget is that this is a fivedoor estate in layman terms and that means enough space in the boot area to help you move house. And with the rear seats folded flat its spacious enough to act as back-up for the local undertaker

There are lots of practical touches, in-

based system for securing luggage.

The Allroad is brimming with safety equipment, including six airbags and stability control. Optional extras include rear side airbags.

While the cabin is typically Audi - spacious and comfortable – the one surprise is in the rear where carrying three passengers is not a comfortable proposition.

The Audi success story just goes on and on and if you're not frightened off by the price the A6 Allroad is a good choice

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# Integra - great combination

# By John Griffiths

Honda's latest Integra has something of an identity crisis: a bit like Clark Kent and his alter-ego the caped crusader.

It's deliberate, of course, as the company tries to widen the appeal of two wheelers and integrate some of the best features of bikes with those of a scooter. Hence the name: it's actually nothing to do with the Honda's Integra Type R, one of the best coupes of the 1990s.

Officially the £7,788 Integra is classed as

a 'maxi scooter' and with a torquey 745cc twin cylinder engine and a top speed of around 100mph it's certainly near the top of that class.

has first-class weather protection but with its excellent chassis and 17-inch wheels it has the stability and handling of a bike. That isn't a surprise, as apart from the bodywork its shares virtually everything with its stablemate the 750S

It would serve admirably as an easy-toride commuter scooter with what is probably the best automatic transmission on any two-wheeler, but unlike some of its smaller counterparts you can tackle some serious

Depending on how and where you ride it, everyday economy is between 60 and 70mpg – in fact the official figure is 80mpg. With a 14.1 litre tank that gives you an impressive range between fill-ups.

It has the comfort and performance to handle longer motorway runs, able to easily keep up the pace without leaving you feeling intimidated as other traffic treats you like a rolling roadblock. There's plenty of power to carry a pillion passenger, too.

The Integra isn't over-heavy at 237kgs: in fact it's a relative lightweight compared to some of its rivals and with its sturdy, shift chassis and bike suspension it's particularly stable in a straight line and doesn't dip and wallow in corners. In fact it corners like a motorcycle because, in all areas that count, it is one.

I have heard of one tester complain of scraping the bodywork through being over enthusiastic in a corner but from my own experience I don't know how. There were times when I used all the rear tyre's treaded area without any other sort of contact.

A big, well-shaped seat - almost an armchair by bike standards - and long footboards instead of pegs allow the rider a nice upright position but also the ability to shuffle about a bit, to avoid stiffness and numb rear-end syndrome when you've been sitting there for an hour or two.

# Injected

The aerodynamic front end and large front screen are well designed to protect you from wind blast and rain. In fact on an autumn day in my heavy protective bike gear I felt too warm, the only noticeable breeze hitting the back of my neck (drawn in from the rear as in a convertible car).

The latest Integra's fuel injected engine

has grown in size from 670 to 745cc, giving it an extra 3bhp (now just over 54) and a healthy 68Nm of torque, which is on a par with some bigger engine bikes such as Tri-umph's Bonneville.

The significance of that is smooth riding while maintaining relatively high gears for economy. Fourth around town at 30mph, for example, is easy going and impressively quiet, but the Integra has the ability to pick up its heels when required.

The second generation DCT transmision uses a 'proper' gearbox (as opposed to a CVT system) with an electronically controlled dual clutch system, similar to the Audi VW Group's acclaimed DSG unit.

It has two modes - Drive, which selects and holds the highest gear for the conditions to give you best economy and Sport, which is more responsive and allows the revs to get up towards the redline if you give it a big handful.

You can also change gear manually, using 'up' and 'down' buttons on the lefthand grip. It is very fast-acting, the electronics interpreting your requirements via move-ments on the throttle but the ability to change down one or two cogs with just the press of the thumb is ideal when, for example, you're setting up for a tight bend.

It's smoother and more responsive than any CVT system I've ridden, offering better rider connection with the bike as well as fuel and performance advantages.

The brakes - discs front and rear with ABS - are reassuringly effective and are operated by separate hand levers on the bars. Being more used to the normal bike arrangement, though, it did take a few miles to stop my right foot from pressing the foot-

boards.
As the Integra is essentially built on a motorcycle frame, it lacks some of the cargo carrying capacity of more 'normal' scooters. The fuel tank is under the large hinged (and lockable) seat and in front of that there's a storage bay which will just about take a helmet. The configuration also means you throw your leg over the seat, bike-style, rather than the 'step through' facility of some scooters so there's no facility for a bag hook there. A rear luggage rack and box are on the accessories lis



The Integra's integrated design sets it apart from the herd and gives it an appeal all of its own.

It's more of an all-rounder than some of the pure scooter breed, with its motorcycle performance and handling which make it

Its combination of capabilities - nearly 100mph and almost 80mpg – plus its excellent transmission and more comfort and weather protection than most standard bikes make it an attractive alternative for some riders than more traditional designs on both sides of the fence

# **TESTED**

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CITROEN C3 1.4 Cachet, 08 reg, petrol, 5 door, red, 50,000 miles, full MoT, excellent condition, £1,795. 07957 674306.

FORD FIESTA STYLE, 2008, black, 73k, 1.25, MoT, air con, e/w, e/m, CD, new cambelt, £2,395. 07944 713707.

FORD FOCUS 1.6 TITANIUM, 3Dr 55 reg, 63K, tax to November, Mo1 to May 2015, leather, alloys, CD Cat D £2,195 ono. 07730 496811.

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PEUGEOT 107 1.0, 2009, red, only 15,000 miles, FSH, one owner from new. Full MoT. £3,995. 01384 936630.

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£3,300. 01902 788391/07966 431685

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.25, 55 plate, approx 60,000 miles, black, e/w, CD player, 3 door, £1,800 ono. Telephone 07792 409102.

VAUXHALL CORSA, 2002, 51,000 months MoT, excellent conditions 1,845. 07961 513840.

VW PASSAT 2010, Hi Line Estate, TDi, fsh, immaculate, one owner, leather, 103k, MoT, £5,995. 01384 274518 or 07703 540507.

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£1,499 ono.
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well, £895 o.n.o. 07961 669911.

MAZDA MXS 1.6 1991, new hood
(cost £350) MoT, metallic blue, low
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PEUGEOT 106, W reg, good condi-tion, long MoT, recently serviced, CD, £495 ono, 07972 009230.

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02 reg, 95,000 miles, silver,
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# 2002, 1.9DCi Dynamique, 11 months tax, MoT March 2015, 73,000 miles, alloy wheels, 6 disc CD changer, good condition.

£875 ono. 07886 512845. ROVER 45 1.4, 5 door, 12 months MoT, 2000, service history, great condition, £600 ono. 01543 573130. 07802 694664.

ROVER STERLING 827 1995, 4dr saloon, 2675cc, full working condisaloon, 20,000, ... tion. £700. 0121 550 6032.

0121 509 0032.
TOYOTA CELICA 1.8, petrol, silver, 2001, 84k miles, MoT, FSH, 2 lady owners, excellent car, £1,400. 01902 552240. 07989 539449.
TOYOTA YARIS SR VVTi, 52 reg, 1.3, new clutch, track rod ends. £600. 01902 724487.

TRIUMPH SPITFIRE, 1974, Mk IV, 1500cc, none starter, dry stored, body work good condition, good restoration project. 07815 594002.

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2001, Estate, 69,000 miles, green, abs, air bag, air con, alarm, long MoT, metallic paint, pas, alloys, CD, good runner. £995. 01902 632182.

VW GOLF, blue Y reg 2001, MK4 1.9SDi, 5 door, 112k miles, MoT, CD, a/c, pas, electric windows, £1.150 ono, 07754 557861.

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MOTORCYCLE JACKET AGN Sport £40, Field Sheer leathe jacket, £40, both never used, 07852



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Wolverhampton area

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No: 413571 © More dhousewife seeking bored male for some fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411281 © No: 410461 © No

ANITA seeking nice man in the West Midlands, 50-70 for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413765 \$\end{a}\$

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GILLY, voluptuous well groomed lady, seeks man to massage and pamper. Married exciting men please apply. Tel No: 9905 002 
1933 Box No: 412933 

KATY 26 slim beautiful discreet blue eyed blonde looking for mature enert for some to the control of the control o

KATY 26 slim beautiful discreet blue eyed 3724 Box No: 413207 

blonde looking for mature gent for some uncomplicated fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 

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SALLY, 36yrs discreet broad-minded lady seeks absolutely no strings adult fun, any ageidrae. Act. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410575

No: 410575

ANNABELLE 29 slim tanned beautiful sophisticated sensual brunette, loves the high life Champaing lunches weekends away.

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KAREN 34 blue/green eyed size 12 attractive brunette who loves pubs, cosy nights in, kids, seeking special honest guy/dad for poss fit. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413005 

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sophisticated sensual brunette, loves the high Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413005 \$\exists | \text{Ifle, Champaign lunches, weekends away, seeks very own sugar daddy for sweet nothings, Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414191 \$\exists | \text{Rochampaign lunches, weekends away, seeks very own sugar daddy for sweet nothings, Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414191 \$\exists | \text{Rochampaign lunches, weekends away, and the proposition of the proposit

RITA attractive blonde with a very kind heart seeks special man to share my life with. Please get in touch if like me you are fed up with always being the single friend. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412987 🗒

usus 500 3724 Box No: 412987 

JAN 5ft8ins slim pretty lady in great shape, open-minded, laidback, GSOH, OHAC, many interests, WLTM someone for cuddling up with and to share good and bad times. ACA.

Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412937 

KIM 25yrs feminine, pretty, big blue eyes, GSCH, varied interests, likes romantic beach open-minded, laidback, GSOH, OHAC, many interests, WLTM someone for cuddling up with and to share good and bad times. ACA.

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#11777 

CAROL young 47. carino law in the statement of the statement of

JULIE loving, caring, honest, seeks real gent to share conversation and have a great time, friendship/relationship, who knows? Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412777 €

usus with looking for his mojel No. 11279 Box No: 412599 Company, fine wine/food, with surplementationship, who knows? Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412776 UNCY 37yr professional, mum to one, sensual and very attractive, looking for a real sensionate to enjoy and generally having a good time man, tall, fit, sincere and passionate to enjoy with generous man looking for his mojel No sarings, go on call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412599 Company, Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410527 Company, Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410527 Company, Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410538 Company, Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410538 Company, Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410538 Company, Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410538 Company, Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410538 Company, Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410543 Company, Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No

OF THE WEEK

and spoilt, 23yrs, Just left uni and looking for some

female who likes shopping, socialising, nights in/out seeking thoughtful genuine male. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412041

No: 3005 food 3724 Box No: 411281 No: 410461 No: 410

Such 34, likes most things in life, even football looking for my fit Wonderful thought I would give this a try. Come on what do we have to loose, call me. 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410765 \$\frac{1}{2}\$ and \$\frac{1}{2}\$ All Such as the seeks professional lady, 56, enjoys country walks, meals out, seeks professional in the country walks.

SUSAN 64, lively, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. 0906 500 3724 Box No: maybe m 411329 ₽

SUE 38, attractive broadminded attentive, DONNA 2779s blue eyed blonde with cute 500 3724 Box No: 413925 gid senjoys meals in/out etc, not necessarily dimpled smile, loves socialising but looking to first fight as fir Wrong or even Mr or that special someone with GSOH to Cheloty, tactile, tunown tec 100 3724 Box No: 411049 gid Som 200 3724 Box No: 411049 gid Som 200 500 3724 Box No: 411049 gid Som 200 500 3724 Box No: 411049 gid Som 200 500 3724 Box No: 4104973 gid Som 200 500 3724 Box N

KATHERINE 35yr old outgoing single female Box No: 407925 € Box No: 407925 € looking to enjoy dates with similar male also looking for tun times in or out. Age, looks for honest, reliable man for LTR, 49-60. Tel unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409955 € No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 409955 €

PAULINE attractive divorced female with no ties, employed with my own home, likes nights in/out, lots of tie to give to the right person, call me for a chat, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411039 ፟ Text only | No: 1906 500 3724 Box No: 411039 | JEN attractive sensual petite blonde with OHAC seeks confident fit professional male to enjoy and share good times, if that's you play get in louch. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410949 | No:

ARE you dark or bald, with hairy chest, well built, educated, verbal, articulate dom or sub, broadminded and ready to be put in your place? Curious to find out more? call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410637

29YR old black beautiful busty tall loving very sensual lady, likes football, making friends, seeking genuine white male for enjoyable loving relationship, pls no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410577

YOUNG early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410847 🖟

CAROL 38 attractive romantic not looking for fairy tales just happy endings, seeking lovely male to put the sparkle back into my life. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410721 🗒

CLAIRE voluptuous tall feminine attractive lady who loves good company, fine wine/food, travel, WLTM tall professional for romance dates and hopeful ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410627 🗒

NATALIE 22yrs attractive brunette nurse, JEAN petite female who enjoys golf, days LYNNE young looking attractive Indian female very slim, athletic figure, many likes, few out, cosy evenings in, holidays, WLTM older with GSOH and down to earth attitude, dislikes, WLTM male up to 38yrs to stay at male in his 60's with a good personality and looking for likeminded male for date nights, N/S male with GSOH for possible ftr. Looks lady, 59-72 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411219 \$\frac{1}{2}\$ to No

loose, cair me, usus and variable seed of the seed of

interests for adult friendship, hopefully leading to love. looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410117 🗐

S00 3724 Box No: 411049 

ANGIE attractive slim blonde just looking for looked processional, sincere, a lovely spontaneous guy who like me just wants good company and a nice relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 410641 

KATHERINE 35yr old outgoing single female

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JOHN 40's, tall, athletic, active, adventurous, cheeky, tactile, fun, own teeth, loves life, seeks similar fun female. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414067

adventurous, likes music, cycling and ophotography, seeks likeminded female to share fun and happiness with. Tel No: 0906
500 3724 Box No: 352753

OUTGOING young at heart 28 construction worker seeks lady any a exciting dates with a hopeful future Only Mailbox Box No: 4507472

SEAN 47, 5ft 8ins, average looks, seeking genuine, honest, caring female. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413945 🗒

evenings in, special values of the constraint of

SPECKE GD, seeks lim! blond for no strings fun and weekends away. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413703 fun and weekends away. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413703 fun and weekends away. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413703 fun and fun, Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413803 fun and fun, Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413805 fun and fun, Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413805 fun and fun, Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413806 fun and fun and excitement in the data fun and fun and

BLACK guy 68, feels 45, looks 40, seeks TigER Woods lookalike, seeking pretty female, 59-71, GSOH, genuine, carring for fun times and LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411801 🗒

TALL mature male, seeks vounner, attra.

TALL Indian gent, 53, seeks sensual lady for firendship plus, interesting chap, discreet days in and nights out. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413315 B PIIL genuine male, 57, OHAC, looking for female, any race, status and age for no

JOHN 70, tall, slim, seeking female for strings discret fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413183

JOHN 70, tall, slim, seeking female for strings discret fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413183

DEE 49. divorced bandons

RETIRED male, seeking no strings adult fur

TONY young looking 50, 5ft 8ins, slim, seeks slim rock chick, trendy for dates and LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413049 🗓

KEVIN 53, looking for a friend/partner and a lover. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412869 NORTH Shropshire male, 67, N/S, solvent GSOH, likes walks, travel, music, holidays

countryside, seeks N/S lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412867 word out of 24 Box No: 412867 ☐ MAURICE gentleman, 59, gentle, kind, caring, loving, generous, seeks lady with GSOH and similar personality, slim-medium build. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412859 ☐

MALE seeking female companion for outings, friendship and holidays. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412705

3724 Box No: 412705
STEPHEN 58, good looking, likes art, travel, seeking female, 50 plus for companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412633

MALCOLM 61, smoker, great personality, likes coach holidays, drives, pubs, meals out, nights out, 60's music, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412523

year loving, seeking female, 20-40 for fun, friendship and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 724 Box No: 412483 🗎

ALAN tall widower, 76, looking for female of similar age who enjoys meals out, holidays, walks and holidays. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412261

PHIL 57, medium build, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 41263 MALE requiring female company, enjoys

412083

MALE requiring female company, enjoys

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\*\*TALL slim gent, 60, seeks slim, attractive lady for no strings relationship. Discretion assured.

TORDEE 60 seeks Asian/Oriental female for Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412227 \$\frac{1}{2}\$

Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412227 \$\frac{1}{2}\$

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TALL mature male, seeks younger, attractive

SARAH 38yr old bored blonds seeking singly up for some good times, chaits and discreted meets. Locking forward to 18 Mos 412599 \$\frac{924}{324}\$ Box No. 412599 \$\frac{11995}{324}\$ Box No. 41

# his100th turnout with win

# Matlock 0

Halesowen Town 4
JOHN HILL celebrated
his 100th game in charge
with a thumping victory
over Matlock, and to finally get the Yeltz's goal tally
up into double figures.

up into double figures.

Halesowen opened the scoring on 20 minutes, as Chris Lait's corner ball

Chris Lait's corner ball flew into the box and Joe Hull hit a rolling shot that found its way into the net. Ben Haseley finally ended his goal drought in the league, as he latched on to Iyseden Christie's pass and he comfortably tucked the ball into the net to double The Yeltz's lead on 28 minutes. Halesowen put the

lead on 28 minutes.

Halesowen put the game out of Matlock's reach on 50 minutes, as Robert Thompson-Brown picked up the ball from 25 yards before smashing a rocket of a shot past a stunned Matlock defence and intertheten by the conditions of the condition of t

stunned Matlock defence and into the top left cor-ner of the net.

Matlock's defencegave away a penalty on 84 min-utes. Lait stood up to take it, and he comfortably slotted it into the left side of the net

slotted it into the left side of the net.

The game drew to an end, and with John Hill's record after 100 games being the second best in Halesowen's history, let's Halesowen's history, let's hope he can make it even better in the next 100.

# Grealish pulls out for talks

JACK GREALISH has been allowed to withdraw from the Ireland Under-21 squad to discuss a new contract at Villa.

The 19-year-old has re-turned to Villa for more talks, with him close to agreeing to a new long-term deal with his childhood club.

"The facts are that he is in contractual talks with Aston Villa and they have reached an important stage," under-21 manager Noel King said. "His deal is up at the end of the year and his future is

of the year and his future is of paramount importance to him. So you can see why they would want to sort that matter out.

"I accept Jack's reasons for withdrawing and understand it. I have no issue with it."

# Hill marks Old Hales play catch-up in season opener

OHHC 1sts 2 Edgbaston 2
OLD Halesonians Hockey Club Men's 1st XI kicked off the 2014/2015 season with a home fixture versus Edgbaston who were relegated from Midlands Premier Division

Hales knew they would be in for a tough game, especially as their pre-season prepa-rations had been disrupted. It wasn't the start the home side wanted

early on, despite periods of play where they prevented Edgbaston from leaving their own half.

The visitors struck fast, and caught the

Old Hales defence napping when their forward rounded goalkeeper Steve Charlton to find the corner of the goal from a tight

angle.
Old Halesonians responded well and had chances of their own. However, they found themselves two behind before the break, when the visitors once again struck against

to get 'back on track'. Well organised, and well drilled, the hosts soon got a goal back through Paul Woodall.

The game became more open as both teams tired, and it was Hales who were abled.

teams treet, and it was reases who were able to bring the game level when Tom Durnford found the goal from a penalty corner. As both teams tried to steal all three points for themselves, the game got heated and several cards were shown, and both teams were reduced to 10-men when an altercation left Hales forward Harry Hughes in the sin-bin along with an Edgbaston counterpart. The game came to a close with points shared, and the Men's 1st XI

Goals came from Annie Smith, Rae Andrews, Molly Kelly, Suzanne Collins and

drews, Molly Kelly, Suzanne Collins and Jenny Cooper.
Other Results: Edgbaston 5 OHHC 2nds 0; OHHC 3rds 1 Telford 1, goalscorer: Nic Penn; Edgbaston 2 OHHC 4ths 2, goalscorers Mark O'Connell, Nigel Smith; Kings Heath 3 OHHC 5ths 3, goalscorers: Andy Hewitt (2), Neil Hurst; Worcester 1 OHHC Badgers 1, goalscorer Euan Dark.

# Hales pick up Lions' scalp in home coup

FOLLOWING the impressive scalp of Sutton at Wassell Grove last week Hales travelled to meet Peterborough for the first time.

The Peterborough side had not been beaten at home for three and half years and looked a challenge in terms of size and potential. From the kick off Hales received and drove at the home defence.

and went for the line. He was tackled just short but managed to slip the ball to supporting wing Warren Oliver who scored the try-Again bad discipline gave Peterborough two

gave Peterborough two penalties in succession for scrum offences which gave the home side opportunity to pull back to 11-20 at half time.

The second half needed to continue and renewed pres-sure did that with replace-ment kicker Stephen Powell

slotting a penalty as Hooper was forced to retire injured.

Two minutes later Hales were penalised for a rucking offence, Peterborough converted 14 - 23. Again The visitors came back, Smith collected, broke the defence and left all behind for his third try . Peterborough them The Hales defence steed streag in the main but

stood strong in the main but the home side forced their way over for a deserved try.

way over for a deserved try.

Not to be outdone at 39
minutes, the visitors took a
line out controlled by Mark
Evans, a rolling maul ensued which ended with prop
Tom Dempsey dropping
over the try line, converted
by Powell forthe win and

Two minutes later Hales

Forwards took control and after two minutes backs fed Luke Smith on the wing to sprint through the defence for his first try to lead 0-5

Peterborough were in shock but fought back with forward power through the middle of the field. Quick balls to their backs saw the home winger score a de-served try wide out.

Not to be outdone Hales fought back and with for-wards Pete Fitzgerald, Rich-ard Taylor and Tom Jordan ard Taylor and Tom Jordan leading the charge. Nathan Jones at scrum half again controlled the game. From a ruck ball on the opposition 22 he looked blind and hit the shouting Chris Hooper with a precision precision.

the shouting Chris Hooper with a precision pass.
Hooper, like last week, accelerated through the defence and slipped the ball outside to Smith who was unstoppable for a classic try, converted by Hooper to lead.
Further pressure then from Hales who were working the phases they are used to only to be stopped by the home side infringing, the penalty converted was by Hooper.
After 30mins Hales again gathered the ball and a planned move saw Luke Smith played into the centres, split the home defence

Cup magic for six-goal thriller Christie



Striker lyseden Christie with the FA Cup. He scored six goals in the second quali-

THE magic of the FA Cup cast a spell at Halesowen Town after a thrilling per-

formance created history.

Dozens of fans gathered at The Grove to see officials bring out the trophy – and it was a special moment for striker, Iyseden Christie who put in a stunning cup tie performance that will go down in the record books.

tie performance that will go down in the record books. The 37-year-old former Coventry City player scored six goals in the Yeltz's 7-1 win away against Ellistown and Ibstock United in the FA Cup second qualifying round last Saturday.

### Coup

He became the third player in the competition's 143-year history to hit a double hat-trick. The others were Ted MacDougall and George Best. Club chairman Colin Brookes said the qui's George Best. Club chairman Colin Brookes said the cup's visit had been a coup and he was delighted Christie was getting recognition for his achievement.

achievement.

"It is wonderful for the club. There were young fans who came along on the night too and for them to get involved too is great," he said. "That's what it is all about really at our level.

"It was an amaging per."

"It was an amazing per-formance from Iyseden. He did so well and he deserves all this."

Fans were able to pose for pictures in the ground's James Grove Lounge.

# **Players** all set to battle for Masters

SATURDAY sees the final Green Bowling Competitions in the midlands, the 2014 George Masters which has total prize of

which has total prize of £3,700 on offer.

The high quality field for finals day sees arguably the top four competition bowlers in the country in action.

country in action.

Gary Ellis from Greater

Manchester, Graeme

Wilson from Yorkshire,
Simon Coupe from North

Lancashire and local
player Greg Smith from

Warwick & Worcester

have all won major competitions already this season and will be competing

for the £1,000 first prize.

A crowd of around 300

A crowd of around 300 will be expected on the day at The George Bowling Club, George Road, Oldbury. Play starts at 10am with free entry.

10am with free entry.
Full Draw:
G. Smith (W&W) v D.
Sadler (W&W)
S. Rutter (Shrops) v D.
Plenderleith (N. Mids)
C. Fielding (W&W) v C.
Barker (Staffs)
G. Wilson (Yorks) v D.
Hopwood (W&Y)

J. Palmer (W&W) v M. Denman (W&W) M. Ledwidge (Staffs) v S. Coupe (Nth Lancs)

G. Ellis (Gtr Man) v S. Homer (Staffs) M. Tunstall (Mersey) v M. Reynolds (W&W)

# Varela may need an op on his groin

ALBION'S Silvestre Varela faces another delay before making his Premier League debut following further problems with a groin injury that may require surgery.

The on-loan 29-year-old who has made just one brief substitute appearance for the Baggies in the Capital One Cup, is waiting to learn if he will need an operation.

The Baggies are speaking to Porto – the Portugal international's parent club – before deciding whether to send him for surgery.

Head coach Alan Irvine said: "He has got a groin problem.We are talking to Porto about it as well.

'We certainly can't do anything that is too invasive in terms of assessing him with-out their permission."

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# 

**Lions tamed** Home coup as Old Hales grab victory

Page 39

Six appeal

Christie honoured for Cup goal feat

Page 39



Sports Desk 01902 319531

email: Chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

# Poco is grateful for boost at Albion

FANS' favourite Sebastien Pocognoli thanked Albion for reLaunching his Bel-gium career as he admitted his move to The Hawthorns has accelerated his interna-

nas accelerated nis interna-tional return.

The popular left-back has been recalled to the Belgium squad by boss Marc Wilmots after a strong start to his Baggies career following his summer move from Han-

And the 27-year-old, who

nover.

And the 27-year-old, who missed out on a place in his country's World Cup squad, believes playing in the Premier League has helped him win back his place in Wilmots' plans.

"It's good news to be called up, especially after missing the World Cup," said Pocognoli, who could figure in the home game against Andorra on Friday and the trip to Bosnia-Herzegovina on Monday – both in Euro 2016 qualifiers.

"I'm happy after the way the season has started for me here. To start well was very important for me. Playing every game for West Bromwich was important. Each game is shown on Belgian TV. If I am picked for the national team then it'll be because I'm getting good be because I'm getting good

"My last game was against Ivory Coast, before the World Cup. I didn't make the final 23."

# **Tipton are** taken down

Bromsgrove 2 Tipton 1 TIPTON'S Ble Pangne was among the goals and in the wars as the Black Country club gave some hint of a change of fortune.

club gave some hint of a change of fortune.
Pangme put Tipton ahead in the 26th minute of the FA Vase second qualifying round tie.
Bromsgrove had pulled a goal back in the 65th minute through a far post header by Chris Conway, Then tipton conceded a spot-kick which Conway drilled home emphatically.
It was enough to see Bromsgrove through to the final whistle.
Mike Wardle and Ben Hadley returned to bring an urgency to the team's play that had been missing this season, and helped give Bromsgrove a run for their money.
Overall this was a meet

Overall this was a most encouraging effort by the Black Country lads.

# Heathens squad power on to more g

CRADLEY continued their remarkable run of form as they beat Birmingham in the West Midlands Trophy at Monmore Green.

The Heathens have been in dominant The Heathens have been in dominant form in the National League throughout the whole of 2014, yet they faced undoubtedly their toughest test of the year as they took on a strong and determined Brummies side in a one-off fixture.

However, they passed this test with flying colours as a determined display saw them claim a 55-38 victory, remarkably their 45th consecutive triumph on home soil.

Speedway

to a lightning start as youngster Nathan for a righthing start as youngster wathan Greaves forced his way past former Heathens skipper Adam Roynon to join partner Steve Worrall at the front for a 5-1.

Matt Williamson then repeated the trick as he hit the front alongside Danny Phillips

to power Cradley into a 10-2 lead.

The Birmingham team did hit back im-

aim a 55-38 victory, remarkably their 5th consecutive triumph on home soil.

The former Dudley Wood outfit got off points at the halfway stage of the contest.

But Cradley took advantage of a fall for Ben Wilson in heat nine to strike a 5-1 and give themselves breathing space once again before skipper Paul Starke and Williamson demonstrated some fast starting in heat 11 to ensure they seized control heading into the interval.

### Robbed

A fall for Phillips unfortunately robbed partner Max Clegg of the chance of an extra lap to attack tactical ride man Simon Lambert in heat 12 as Birmingham set up a nervy finale.

Nonetheless, star duo Starke and Worrall Nonetheless, star duo Starke and Worrall quickly settled any nerves with a composed heat 13 maximum before wrapping up what was a superb win and ensuring both ended the night unbeaten following dominant displays on the track.

Cradley 55: Paul Starke 15, Steve Worrall 13+2, Tom Perry 7+1, Max Clegg 7+1, Matt Williamson 6+3, Nathan Greaves 4+1, Danny Phillips 3

Birmingham 38: Simon Lambert 13+1, Brendan Johnson 6+2, Adam Roynon 5, Luke Chessell 4, Ben Wilson 4, Adam Ex-tance 3+1, Chris Widman 3+1

# brought to an end

FA Cup 2nd Qualifying Round Replay Leek Town FC 1

Tividale FC 0

IN a fairly even opening 30 minutes it was the visitors who had the first real chance when Luke Paskin headed wide from a sixth minute corper.

chance when Luke Faskin headed wide from a sixth minute corner.

Paskin was then on hand at the other end when he put in a vital block on Leek forward Liam Shotton in Tividale's area.

The decisive goal came on 30 minutes when Leek's Paul Donnelly fired in what can only be described as a hard and low cross hit Botheld in the area and rolled agonisingly past the completely wrong footed Tividale keeper Charlie Price and into the net.

Tividale started the second half the brighter and a

ond half the brighter and a Jazz Luckie shot beat Leek's young keeper Bradley Moor-head but it was cleared off

On 58 minutes a Zack Foster free kick was met by Bot-field but Moorhead did well to dive and turn it around the post. Shotton possibly should have doubled the score on 67 minuteswhen through one-on-one on goal but Price blocked his effort.

# LAIT SH ES THE YE

CHRIS LAIT'S late equaliser rescued a point for Halesowen and maintained a four-game unbeaten run with only one defeat in the last eight games.

Prior to the kick-off, presentations were made to John Hill and Trevor Burroughs to mark their 100th game in charge and to Iysed-

en Christie for scoring six goals in the 2nd qualifying round of the FA Cup at Ellis-

town and Ibworth.

King's Lynn created the first chance when David Bridges struck a sixth minute, low shot wide.

ute, low shot wide.
Robert Thompson-Brown
then flashed wide for Halesowen three minutes later
but it was the visitors who
continued to enjoy the
better of the first period
against a somewhat shaky
home defence as Sam Mulready's 11th minute shot
was blocked.

# Sliced

Home goalkeeper Matt Sargeant then sliced his clearance, allowing Mul-ready to pounce, but Joel Kettle raced back to clear at

Kettle raced back to clear at the foot of the post. Michael Frew finally capi-talised to give the Linnets a 19th minute lead by lobbing home above Sargeant from George Thomson's incisive ball over the top of the home defence.

defence.
Ten minutes before the interval David Bell's corner caused further confusion as Thomson's shot was cleared off the line and foot of the post before former Yeltz de-fender Henry Eze hooked

# Football

the rebound wide of the home goal.

Just before the interval

Just before the interval Thompson-Brown fired a 20-yard free-kick high and wide of the visiting net. King's Lynn sat back in the second half as Hale-

sowen upped their game.

Lait's 56th minute cross
was cleared and then his
free-kick looped into the
arms of goalkeeper Alexander Street with the aid of a deflection.

Curtis Tilt then found space in a crowded penalty area but planted his free header wide from Thompson-Brown's corner three minutes later.

minutes later.
But it took until the 87th
minute for Halesowen to
eventually level the scores
when Tilt played the ball
out left for Lait to turn inside his marker and unleash
a low shot from 20 yards
that deflected off full-back
Jackson Ramm before nestling into the bottom of the
net with goalkeeper Street net with goalkeeper Street stranded.

The Yeltz are still searching for their first home league win of the season.

Picture - page 39

# GB gymnasts just miss out on the medals



Kristian Thomas, far left, is all smiles after leading his GB team-mates to fourth in China

KRISTIAN THOMAS helped Great Britain's gymnastic team to a slice of history after recording their best-ever World Championship re-

The Midlands star – who trains at Halesowen's Earls Gymnastics Club - finished fourth in Nanning, China, in the team final

The 25-year-old, along with Max Whitlock, Dan Keatings, Dan Pur-vis and Nile Wilson, finished with a

score of 269.270 but GB were beaten by gold medallists China with Japan and the USA taking the other po-dium places

and the USA taking the other po-dium places.

After strong performances on the pommel horse, rings and vault, GB found themselves in second place behind Japan but China improved round-by-round, eventually over-hauling Japan with their final rou-tine.

That left a battle for the bronze

medal and, following a poor parallel bars routine from Keatings and av-erage scores on the high bar, Britain slipped to fifth with just one appara-tus to go.

Whitlock, Puris and Thomas all scored impressively but it was not enough to deny the USA who claimed the final rodium position.

the final podium position.

"It's a really hard place to finish, but we're so proud of how we performed out there," team captain

the line. On 58 minutes a Zack Fos-

# Albion sell out ticket allocation

ALBION will be backed by 2,000 fans for the Capital One Cup last-16 game at Bournemouth after the club sold out their full ticket al-

The Baggies will look to secure a place in the quarter-finals by beating the Cherries at Dean Court on October 28

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